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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Quadrennial reports, 1992-1995

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31**

Note

In accordance with paragraph 61 (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status shall submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Secretary-General, every fourth year a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. Based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate.

At its 1981 session, the Committee decided that quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations should be limited to no more than two single-spaced pages. At its 1989 session, the Committee stressed the need for non-governmental organizations required to submit quadrennial reports to provide the Secretariat with clear and timely information, including, inter alia, a brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the Organization.

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* E/C.2/1997/1.

** Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996 supersedes Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

At its 1991 session, the Committee emphasized the need for non-governmental organizations requested to submit quadrennial reports to provide a clear picture of their activities as they related to the United Nations. The Committee further noted that the reports should conform to the guidelines elaborated by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Committee (see E/1991/20, para. 47). The Committee decided that only those reports elaborated in conformity with the guidelines and submitted to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section no later than 1 June of the year preceding the Committee's session would be transmitted to the Committee for consideration (see E/1991/20, para. 48). Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat, in October 1995, communicated to all relevant organizations guidelines for the completion of quadrennial reports.

The material issued in the present series of documents (E/C.2/1997/2 and addenda) has been reproduced as submitted and therefore reflects the policies and terminology of the organizations concerned. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

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1. AFS INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS, INC.

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes

AFS Intercultural Programs (AFS) is an international voluntary non-governmental non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to act as responsible global citizens working for peace and understanding in a diverse world. Through its programmes and activities, AFS seeks to affirm faith in the dignity and worth of every human being and of all nations and cultures, encourages respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and bases its activities on the core values of dignity, respect for differences, harmony, sensitivity and tolerance. AFS is a people-to-people movement primarily engaged in intercultural educational exchange, involving 10,000 participants annually and a network of over 100,000 volunteers worldwide. AFS currently operates through national member organizations in 54 countries, and contacts in 10 other countries, in all regions of the world. Following the AFS World Congress of 1993, AFS has focused in particular on developing programmes and organizations in Africa (South Africa was readmitted as a partner organization in 1995, Ghana re-enters in 1996), and on expanding the programmes and organizations in Eastern and Central Europe, in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

AFS conducts intercultural exchange programmes of varying lengths for students, teachers, young professionals and workers which include in-depth immersion in the local cultural and language, and expose participants to new perspectives on key world issues such as the environment, marginalized or other disadvantaged peoples, and minority rights. The constituent national organizations of AFS conduct seminars and other activities at the local and national level concerning themes of universal human values. Many national AFS organizations maintain close cooperation with the United Nations associations in their countries and organized and participated in joint activities, especially in 1995 in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Participation in United Nations conferences and meetings

During the period under review, representatives from the international headquarters of AFS Intercultural Programs and from national constituent AFS organizations participated in the following conferences and meetings:

(a) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992;

(b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Conference on Education, Geneva, 3-8 October 1994;

(c) Second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, New York, 22 August-2 September 1994 and 16-27 January 1995;

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(d) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995;

(e) Commission for Social Development, thirty-fourth session, New York, 10-20 April 1995;

(f) Planning Meeting for the Youth Forum of the United Nations System, New York, 17-19 July 1995;

(g) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 4-15 September 1995;

(h) Collective Consultation of Youth Non-Governmental Organizations on Literacy and Education for All, Tokyo, Japan, 5-9 September 1995;

(i) Forty-eighth annual Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat/Non-Governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Conference, "The United Nations at the Turn of the Century: Global Issues; Global Actors; Global Responsibility", New York, 18-20 September 1995;

(j) International Non-Governmental Organization Seminar: Focus on Families - Action and Issues beyond International Youth Year (IYY), Vienna, 6-7 November 1995.

Other relevant activities

AFS Intercultural Programs has demonstrated its strong commitment to the goals set forth in the Charter of the United Nations through the exchange programmes and activities it operates, concentrating in the areas of youth, education, social development and the environment.

In addition to co-sponsoring a photographic essay contest that allowed young peoples' concerns and hopes for the Earth to be displayed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Brazil, 1992, AFS also led a major youth environmental education and involvement project, "Gaia Camp Amazonas 92" during May 1992 leading up to the Earth Summit. One hundred fifty students representing 42 countries took part in the training seminar and camp which focused on the environment, children and development, and created a park and environmental education centre for the city of Manaus.

For the AFS World Congress held in Murten, Switzerland, in October 1993, AFS produced a special video on "Building Citizenship for a Diverse World" which featured individuals in the United Nations system and other world leaders including the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, who had been a former AFS participant, and the Director of the Regional Office for North America of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). At a 1993 World Congress, AFS also adopted an updated mission statement incorporating language and content in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[1] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993.[1] In 1995, AFS adopted a Global Education Framework for its programmes to further promote learning about world issues.

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International and national publications of AFS have highlighted United Nations events and themes, in particular the International Year of the Family (1994), the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1995), and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, as well as various United Nations "days". Many activities are carried out by AFS constituent organizations in support of these, such as seminars and workshops on human rights, conflict resolution, tolerance and combating racism as well as, for example, the running of a "Model United Nation Security Council" in France. Information was also disseminated about United Nations documents, declarations and materials for use in the national AFS organizations, in particular the UNESCO World Education Report and UNDP Human Development Report, the Declaration of the forty-fourth session of the International Conference on Education of UNESCO (1994) and the project "Towards a Culture of Peace" focusing on education for peace, human rights, democracy and international understanding and tolerance; the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[2] and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] adopted at the Social Summit (1995); and the Platform for Action[4] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995). At the NGO Forum connected with the Social Summit, AFS conducted three different workshops on "Building Global Citizenship for a Diverse World", presenting practical examples of how to achieve intercultural understanding and social integration.

Former AFS participants work throughout the United Nations system, in non-governmental organizations devoted to the goals of the United Nations, and in Governments. Likewise, many key AFS staff and volunteer leaders have a close association with the United Nations. The AFS National Director in Germany serves as an expert on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; a member of AFS's governing Board of Trustees during 1992-1993 was external relations officer for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Zagreb; the President of AFS was previously the National Director of the Australian Committee for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Having previously received a special testimonial from the Secretary-General in recognition of AFS's dedicated service in support of the United Nations programme on youth, AFS continues to be in the forefront of non-governmental organizations engaged in youth work and is committed to the goals established by the General Assembly in the guidelines for planning and follow-up in the field of youth. AFS looks forward to continuing to contribute to the planning of the World Youth Forum and the development and implementation of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[5] and implementation of recommendations from the Social Summit and the work of the Commission for Social Development.

Notes

[1] A/CONF/157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[2] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

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[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

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2. AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS

(General consultative status)

Introduction

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), founded in 1958, is a grass-roots membership organization of more than 33 million persons aged 50 years or older in the United States of America and other countries, seeking both nationally and internationally to promote independence, dignity and purpose for older persons, to enhance their quality of life, and to encourage older people 'to serve, not to be served'.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

With the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, AARP continued a project begun in 1991 that produced the Expert Group Meeting entitled 'Integration of Older Women Into Development'. Activities included the editing, publication and distribution of the proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting (1992/1994); engagement of a consultant through DAW (1992/1993) to prepare a survey instrument (based on one of the recommendations emanating from the Expert Group Meeting); and testing of the survey document by experts from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia (Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean were completed by the end of 1995). Upon completion of all of the tests, the survey instrument, designed to enable countries to better learn about the contributions older women make to development, will be revised and made available to Member States upon request.

AARP, in conjunction with the United Nations and HelpAge International, sponsored capacity-building seminars for non-governmental organizations who work on behalf of older persons. Participants included non-governmental organizations from an area extending from the Baltics to the Balkans and from the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Seminars have been held in Vienna, Budapest and Warsaw (1992/1995), and have resulted in a formal network of non-governmental organizations called the East and Central European Network.

In anticipation of the October 1994 Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, AARP funded a non-governmental organization newsletter produced by the Geneva-based non-governmental organization/ECE Working Group which provides an interface between non-governmental organizations in the ECE region and the ECE secretariat. In 1995, AARP President-elect Margaret Dixon headed the Association's delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and participated in a panel discussion of intergenerational issues. AARP sponsored a workshop at the non-governmental organization forum on older women's issues, and participated in caucuses in both the governmental and non-governmental conferences.

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In consultation with the United Nations secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development, AARP agreed to disseminate the documents prepared by the secretariat to over 500 non-governmental organizations active in the field of ageing internationally, seeking a critical analysis from the perspective of ageing. The resultant report, On Behalf of Aging, was produced for the second session (1994) of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development. AARP made interventions on behalf of older persons at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit.

A workshop on population ageing in Europe and North America was held jointly by ECE and AARP in Geneva in 1995. The workshop developed recommendations reflective of the ageing populations in the ECE region which were then sent to the World Summit for Social Development. Also in 1995, AARP, the Japan Society and the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development co-sponsored a symposium entitled "Older Workers: Their Place in the Changing Global Economy".

In 1995, AARP co-sponsored with the African-American Institute and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat II), a symposium entitled "In Spite of Poverty ... The Older Population Builds Towards the Future".

Other relevant activities

AARP has launched an informal network called Coalition '99 as a continuation of the dialogue that began when AARP invited analysis of the World Summit for Social Development documents by non-governmental organizations worldwide. AARP publishes and distributes the Coalition's newsletter to share ideas and plans for the International Year of Older Persons in 1999. AARP also publishes and distributes internationally a publication on older women's issues entitled Network News.

In 1994, AARP was elected to the Board of Directors of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) and was later elected to serve as Secretary. In 1995, AARP staff initiated the CONGO Finance Committee.

In 1994, at the Vienna NGO Forum on the Status of Women, an Older Women's Caucus was formed under the leadership of AARP. A consensus document was developed and submitted to member State delegations to ensure the inclusion of issues affecting older women in the North American region. In addition, AARP served as the catalyst that initiated and helped sustain the Caucus on Older Persons through the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development. Prior to the World Summit for Social Development, AARP co-hosted a luncheon discussion with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Overseas Development Council (ODC), the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), and the United Nations for key media to secure interest in the Summit.

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, AARP sponsored an intergenerational art contest entitled "Picture a Perfect World:

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Drawing on the Past to Create Our Future". The contest generated over 1,800 entries worldwide.

In 1995, AARP became President-elect of the United Nations NGO Committee on Ageing. AARP staff also serve on the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) Council of Washington Representatives to the United Nations (CWRUN).

In conjunction with the New South Wales (NSW) Office on Ageing, AARP participated in an international teleconference during NSW Seniors Week in 1995. Topics included ageing and employment, ageing and technology, urban design and older people and the media. AARP President Eugene Lehrmann and the Director of AARP International Activities participated in the NSW Seniors Week in Sydney.

AARP continues to participate in a group of endorsing organizations working towards United States approval of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).[1]

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

3. ASIA CRIME PREVENTION FOUNDATION

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes

The Asia Crime Prevention Foundations (ACPF) is a non-governmental organization established on 17 February 1982, and granted consultative status in May 1991. Its aim is to promote sustainable development, peace and stability in Asia and the world through more effective crime prevention and criminal justice policies and practices and mutual cooperation among all those concerned. The Foundation seeks to enhance the capabilities of personnel working in this field through appropriate training programmes, especially those organized by the Asia and the Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) and its alumni network. It also promotes collaborative action-oriented research and information exchange, organizing annual world conferences as forums for discussion and action in areas of mutual concern, fostering joint strategies and viable approaches in line with United Nations norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice.

By facilitating continuing contacts and ongoing cooperation among the members, many of them in decision-making positions, the Foundation reinforces the bonds of solidarity among its growing constituency, which includes partners in the private sector and the scholarly community. It undertakes various activities, publishes materials and sponsors special initiatives in support of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

The membership of the Foundation continues to grow: in December 1995, it had over 10,000 members in more than 60 countries, and included associations and companies adhering to, and contributing to the promotion of, the Foundation's goals. During the last four years, ACPF's membership has expanded to Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. The alumni associations have been the building blocks of the Foundation, and it has also multiplied the number of its formal chapters inaugurated in various countries of the region. The annual world conferences, convened by the Foundation in cooperation with host countries to highlight priority issues emphasized by the United Nations, in a regional perspective, usually in preparation for and/or as follow-up to the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, have further extended the Foundation's reach and the active collaboration of its committed membership.

Participation in United Nations activities

ACPF has attended, and submitted written statements and/or made oral statements at, the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held since 1992 (first session: 21-30 April 1992; second session: 13-23 April 1993; third session: 26 April-6 May 1994; fourth session: 30 May-9 June 1995, all held in Vienna), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/152. It also participated in the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

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ACPF has played a significant role at the quinquennial United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and their preparatory meetings, as well as at other high-level crime-related United Nations conferences. It attended the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples, Italy, 21-23 November 1994, which adopted the Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime (see A/49/748, annex, sect. I.A), approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/159. An ACPF delegation from several countries of the region attended the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 29 April-8 May 1995), where it actively participated in the debates and hosted a get-together for Asian and other participants, to further cement their links. The Chairman of ACPF was one of the main speakers at a symposium on "Ensuring Justice in a changing world: the public prosecutor's role" (A/CONF.169/NGO.2), the full proceedings of which have been published. Its statements on technical cooperation and other aspects were reflected in the Congress report (A/CONF.169/16), and its interventions at the regional preparatory meeting for the Congress (Bangkok, 17-21 January 1994), in the report of that meeting (A/CONF.169/RPM.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1).

ACPF attended sessions of the General Assembly (Third and Sixth Committees), and of the Economic and Social Council, and was represented at major United Nations conferences or preparatory activities (for example, the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, June 1993; sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as well as other special meetings, such as the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

ACPF is a Board member, and has participated in the annual meetings of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC), and in the regular meetings of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna and New York.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

(a) ACPF has made a number of direct contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme: (i) it gave a grant for work on the implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules)[1] and their publication in six languages; (ii) it provided the funds for publishing information booklets and posters for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and produced 2,000 "Stop Crime" T-shirts for the Congress; (iii) it assisted the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its programme on the "Implementation of United Nations mandates on juvenile justice administration in the ESCAP region, with a focus on youth in poverty" and the publication of its results; and (iv) it brought the Deputy Director of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and 10 other Asian participants to the Cairo Congress so as to enrich the African and Asian contributions.

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(b) ACPF continued to support UNAFEI by (i) defraying a substantial part of the costs of the regular international training and seminar courses conducted at its headquarters, in Fuchu, Tokyo, namely the 90th, 91st and 92nd courses in 1992, the 93rd, 94th and 95th courses in 1993, the 96th, 97th and 98th courses in 1994, and the 99th, 100th and 101st courses in 1995, amounting to an average annual total of US$ 130,000.00; (ii) providing financial and technical assistance for seminars conducted and research projected carried out in other Asian countries, amounting to some US$ 8,000.00-US$15,000.00 per year.

Other relevant activities

(a) The ACPF World Conferences

Since 1992, the ACPF has held annual World Conferences in different countries of the region with the attendance of local dignitaries, the chapter heads, officers and membership of ACPF as a whole. International symposia related to major United Nations priorities, as reflected at the Congresses and in the work programme, have been held in conjunction with these meetings. Thus, the first World Conference, held in Tokyo in March 1992, was accompanied by a symposium on "Conditions for prosperity without crime"; the second, held in Kuala Lumpur in January 1993, by a symposium on "Public participation in crime prevention and criminal justice"; the third, held in Manila in March 1994, by a symposium on "Urban crime"; and the fourth, held in Bangkok in November 1995, by a symposium on "Urgent crime prevention and criminal justice problems in Asia requiring more effective regional cooperation". The last-mentioned, which sought to provide practical follow-up to the Ninth United Nations Crime Congress, adopted a resolution on regional cooperation and established two working groups dealing, respectively, with the role of penal law in the protection of the environment, and extradition. In this and other connections, input has been provided to the United Nations crime programme, and its guidelines and norms have been disseminated in the region, as they are at the UNAFEI courses. A criminological essay contest has also been sponsored.

(b) Other initiatives

ACPF has sponsored special events to highlight desirable practices and United Nations policies in the crime field, including a drawing and essay competition for juvenile inmates of correctional institutions in 14 Asian countries, with the winning submissions exhibited and published in a special compendium. ACPF has also published a number of other materials which report on United Nations and regional developments, such as ACPF Today (volumes for 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995), and UNAFEI Resource Materials, containing the contributions of lecturers and fellows.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

4. CHILDHOPE

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

The primary aims and purposes of CHILDHOPE include the defence of the rights of street children, as stated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child[1] (United Nations, 1959), and as embodied in the Convention on the Rights of the Child[2] (United Nations, 1989), through the development of a global movement on behalf of street children and in promoting and supporting worldwide coordination of national and regional voluntary action for and with these boys and girls. CHILDHOPE also provides a global network of expertise in the development of relevant programming for street children at the community level, including training and technical assistance, alternative/non-institutional health care and education and resource mobilization.

The geographical membership and funding sources of CHILDHOPE were maintained at a fairly constant level during the previous four years. CHILDHOPE does not have an affiliation to any other international non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

CHILDHOPE's major link to the United Nations continues to be through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). CHILDHOPE was founded in 1986 in response to UNICEF's search for an international non-governmental organization to be its prime collaborator on the issue of street children. Since CHILDHOPE's only constituency continues to be street children, the organization has maintained its strongest alliance with UNICEF on a national, regional and global level.

During the period from 1992 through 1995, CHILDHOPE did not participate in specific meetings or conferences of the Economic and Social Council, nor in those of its subsidiary bodies. However, CHILDHOPE has found opportunities to participate in selected United Nations meetings, where the issue of poor urban children/street children is in the agenda. For instance, at the June 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, CHILDHOPE's Brazil office was appointed as one of the coordinating groups for non-governmental organizations attending the conference. During the conference, CHILDHOPE Brazil also provided special tours of street children projects in Rio de Janeiro to visiting world leaders, including Prime Minister John Majors of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

CHILDHOPE serves in an advisory capacity to the World Health Organization (WHO) Programme on Substance Abuse (WHO/PSA). In April of 1994, the Executive Director of CHILDHOPE was invited by WHO in Geneva to present a paper on the issue of street children and substance abuse at an international conference.

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The conference was entitled "Street Children And Psychoactive Substance: Innovation and Cooperation", Geneva, Switzerland, 18-22 April 1994. The paper presented by CHILDHOPE's Executive Director was entitled "The Role of International NGOs in Relation to Street Children and Substance Abuse" (English).

CHILDHOPE continues its relationship with WHO in the area of street children and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) education and prevention. CHILDHOPE also collaborates with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on issues pertaining child labour and the work of street children.

In January, February and March of 1994, CHILDHOPE Asia collaborated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in holding a UNESCO-funded training seminar in Danang, Viet Nam. The seminar was entitled "Training Programme on Non-Formal Basic Education Techniques for Street Children". The seminar was held for 10 continuous weeks, with three training sessions per week. This programme was part of UNESCO's focus on alternative education to reach children in difficult circumstances, especially street children.

Other relevant activities

CHILDHOPE has maintained its active working relationship with UNICEF over the past four years (1992 through 1995). CHILDHOPE has participated and jointly sponsored various workshops, conferences and seminars in various regions on a global level. Examples of CHILDHOPE's collaborations with UNICEF include the following:

(a) Participation in UNICEF's March 1993 NGO Forum on Children in Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union in Warsaw, Poland;

(b) Participation in UNICEF's November 1993 NGO Forum on Children in Central America, in Antigua, Guatemala;

(c) Continuing membership in the NGO Committee for UNICEF, including two years on the Board of the Committee (1992-1993);

(d) Membership in the UNICEF NGO Committee on Street and Working Children (1992-1995);

(e) Membership in the UNICEF Committee for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992-1995);

(f) Active participation in, with UNICEF, and funding of, the planning and development of the Second International Conference on Street Children, September 1992, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

(g) Cooperation of CHILDHOPE Asia in February 1994 with UNICEF Cambodia, in developing a consulting programme entitled "Human Resource Development/Training for Cambodian Staff Working with Street Children";

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(h) Collaboration with (and funding from) UNICEF Romania in June 1992 to coordinate and implement the First International Conference on Street Children in Romania;

(i) Facilitation of a street education course with funding from UNICEF Romania in Bucharest for local non-governmental organizations, September 1992;

(j) Consultation with UNICEF Myanmar on project proposals on street children in Myanmar, as well as acting as consultant to design a survey on street children in Yangon, Myanmar, for UNICEF Myanmar (1994);

(k) Development of a cooperative agreement with and funding from UNICEF Cambodia and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour and Veteran Affairs for a 1994-1995 training plan directed at developing the government and non-governmental organization capacity to provide services for street children;

(l) Funding from UNICEF for CHILDHOPE to carry out HIV/AIDS research among street children in Colombia, Kenya, Thailand and the Philippines (1992-1993);

(m) Funding from UNICEF to CHILDHOPE to coordinate and facilitate a regional conference in Latin America entitled "Lessons Learned in Assisting Sexually Exploited Adolescent Women and Girls: A Latin American Regional Seminar", 22-25 February 1994, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

(n) Funding from UNICEF to CHILDHOPE to publish the proceedings (English) from an international conference entitled "Reaching the Hard-to-Reach: Health Strategies for Serving Urban Young Women" (1992);

(o) Funding from UNICEF to CHILDHOPE to facilitate the First Workshop for Street Education in the Andean Countries, May 1992, La Paz, Bolivia;

(p) Consultative services to UNICEF Dhaka (Bangladesh) by CHILDHOPE Asia to provide technical assistance for a seminar on mental health and counselling of woman and child victims of prostitution;

(q) Publication (English), with funding from UNICEF New York and Rissho Kosei-Kai Peace Fund in Japan of CHILDHOPE's Directory of Organizations Working with Street Children in Asia, 1995;

(r) Publication (English), with support from UNICEF Manila and the National Programme on Street Children of CHILDHOPE's Guidebook for Center Based Programmes and Guidebook for Drop-In Centres;

(s) Funding from UNICEF Guatemala to CHILDHOPE to carry out a survey on the kinds of work performed by street children in Guatemala City (1995).

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV).

[2] General Assembly resolution 44/25 annex.

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5. CHRISTIAN PEACE CONFERENCE

(Special consultative status)

Founded in 1958 for the purpose of mobilizing Christians and their churches in the struggle for peace, disarmament and social justice, the Christian Peace Conference (CPC) is a global organization of member churches, ecumenical councils and/or regional committees in 89 countries.

The largest member organization of CPC is the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate). The smallest is the Regional Committee of CPC in Canada.

CPC is governed by a global assembly of elected delegates from its constituent bodies. The assembly is held in Prague at five-to-seven-year intervals. The assembly elects an International Coordinating Committee, a Moderator (equivalent to a president), a Coordinating Secretary (equivalent to a secretary-general who is the organization's chief administrative officer) and a Director of the international staff who supervises the employees in the organization's headquarters.

CPC is funded entirely from the voluntary contributions of its member churches and component bodies. The organization does not solicit or accept funds from Governments or their agencies.

Structurally, the organization is divided into five continental associations: the African CPC, the Asian Pacific CPC, the European CPC, the Latin American and Caribbean CPC and the North American CPC. The organization's international headquarters are located in Prague, Czech Republic.

CPC maintains an office for permanent, full-time representation at United Nations Headquarters and is also represented at United Nations centres in Geneva, Vienna and elsewhere. It is associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, accredited to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and other entities within the United Nations system. Local CPC Regional Committees maintain their own contacts and relationships with United Nations information centres in their respective countries. The North American CPC is associated with the United Nations/Department of Public Information at Headquarters in its own right.

CPC is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) and of several CONGO committees including the NGO Committee on Human Rights, the NGO Committee on Southern Africa, the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the NGO Committee on Disarmament (New York), the Special NGO Committee on Disarmament (Geneva), the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights (Geneva) and the Subcommittee on Racism and Racial Discrimination (Geneva), among others.

Each year the entire global constituency of CPC observes the last Sunday in October as United Nations Sunday. This is the occasion for special services in the member churches of CPC devoted to directing the attention and support of the Christian community to the work of the United Nations.

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As a matter of standing organizational policy and practice, representatives and/or observers of CPC are in attendance at most major United Nations meetings and conferences and at most major Non-Governmental Organization events. Representatives of CPC are in regular contact with the non-governmental organization units of the United Nations Secretariat serving the Economic and Social Council, the Department of Public Information and other components of the United Nations system.

In June 1992, representatives of CPC participated in the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and in the Global Forum associated with the Summit. In connection with its participation in these events, the CPC issued a special publication in September 1992 entitled The Road From Rio on the role of the United Nations and the non-governmental community in protecting the environment. Following the Summit, CPC component bodies held special events or programmes on the Summit, for example the Asian Pacific CPC and the Indian CPC Regional Committee held a seminar for churches and ecumenical bodies in August 1992. The North American CPC sponsored a similar programme in Los Angeles in September 1992. A delegation of the CPC participated in the second World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna, 14-25 June 1993. In connection with its participation, CPC joined with a number of other religious and secular non-governmental organizations to ensure that the issue of freedom of religion and belief would be included in the Conference agenda. In this connection, CPC was a co-sponsor of the resolution submitted to the Commission on Human Rights under the agenda item "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief" in which it recommended that the General Assembly designate an annual international day for freedom of religion or belief.

Representatives of CPC participated in the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995. Following the Social Summit, full reports on the event were published in the organization's journal CPC Information, Nos. 456 and 460.

A CPC delegation participated in the NGO Forum associated with the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, 4-15 September 1995. The CPC delegation took part in the preparation of the Women's Peace Platform issued by several peace organizations and women's groups during the event. A special seminar in preparation for the Beijing conference was held under the auspices of CPC in Berlin, June 1995.

In connection with the observance of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993), CPC sponsored special events and publications to popularize the observance of the year in the international ecumenical community. A CPC publication on the Year was issued in December 1992. An international seminar for the European churches was held in Zweifall, Germany, 18-22 January 1993. The papers resulting from the seminar were published by CPC in English and German in early 1994. The International Year for the World's Indigenous People was the principal theme of the meeting of the Working Committee of the Asian Pacific CPC in Hong Kong, 31 May-3 June 1993. The International Year and the related theme of the role of the United Nations in the elimination of colonialism were the principal focus of the annual general assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean CPC held in Matanzas, Cuba, 4-8 June 1995.

Representatives of the CPC were present as observers at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and at the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference held at Headquarters. CPC published and distributed informational materials, position papers and documents pertaining to the Conference and the issue of nuclear non-proliferation for the information of the churches and the CPC constituency.

In support of the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,[1] the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church, the largest member church in CPC, sponsored an International and Inter-confessional Conference on Christian Faith and Human Enmities, held in Moscow, 21-28 June 1994, and attended by denominational and ecumenical leaders from Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa. The papers resulting from the conference were published by CPC in August 1994. Similar seminars were sponsored by CPC members organizations in India, the United States of America, Germany, Japan and the Czech Republic.

Representatives of CPC participate in the NGO Symposia on the Question of Palestine sponsored by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People at Headquarters, in Geneva and at other locations. The conclusions and results of these events are published in the organization's journal, CPC Information.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 36/55.

6. DAYTOP VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes of the organization

Daytop Village Foundation, Inc., was established in response to multiple requests to provide technical assistance in the design and implementation of treatment programmes adapted for a particular target culture. Our concern is with the physical and psychological health aspects of drug and substance abuse. Our projects internationally are usually geared towards improving the quality of human life through education, prevention and effective treatment programmes. This is achieved through training and technical assistance in helping people develop their skills and abilities to solve their own problems and, ultimately, to regain control over their own lives and development. To date, Daytop has assisted in the establishment of treatment programmes in over 50 countries.

(a) The gathering of information and knowledge in respective countries, focusing upon the national mood surrounding youth and the problem zone of acting-out disorders (mostly substance abuse, youth abandonment, delinquency, violence). This embraces the extent and intensity of the problem, current societal responses to the problem including legislation, criminal justice, and social and health remedies as well as prevention activities. The country assessment includes identifying the leadership responsible for addressing the problem; it embraces a circumspect inventory of what treatment/prevention currently exists; and, finally, it gathers early data on funding sources for action programming, nationally or internationally.

(b) The formulation of a Therapeutic Community strategy in nations concerned, centring upon the cultivation of promising linkages with potential leadership as well as the orientation of available contacts in the civil and professional network.

(c) The scheduling of training workshops in Therapeutic Community methods for practitioners of mental health, social welfare, drug and alcohol treatment, health care, correction and education. The goal of each discreet workshop is to provide participants with concepts, methods, and skills that can be directly employed in their work settings and related systems.

(d) The scheduling of symposia at the Daytop International Training Component in New York. This training has proved to be most effective since it offers carefully designed, well-rounded exposure to the didactic as well as the experiential dimensions of the Therapeutic Community.

(e) The adapting of the Therapeutic Community model for application in prisons in Asia and South America.

(f) The developing of programmes in South America and in Asia to address the problem of street children.

(g) In the area of health, the developing of programmes to address the problem of acquired immunodeficiency, in prevention and support systems.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and United Nations meetings

1992	Commission on Narcotic Drugs	Vienna
	Economic and Social Council	New York
	General Assembly	New York
1993	Commission on Narcotic Drugs	Vienna
	Economic and Social Council	New York
	General Assembly	New York
	Drugs in the Workplace	Seville
1994	Commission on Narcotic Drugs	Vienna
	Economic and Social Council	New York
	General Assembly	New York
	Involving Communities in the Global Drug Problem; developing an International Non-Governmental Organization Strategy	New York
	Non-Governmental Organization World Forum	Bangkok
1995	Commission on Narcotic Drugs	Vienna
	Economic and Social Council	New York
	General Assembly	New York

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Daytop Village Foundation, Inc.:

(a) Worked with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat in producing a video presentation on treatment models, for worldwide distribution to government and non-governmental agencies;

(b) Co-sponsored and participated in the United Nations International Drug Control Programme Management Committee for the following conferences and activities:

(i) Drugs in the Workplace, Seville;

(ii) 1994 conference entitled "Involving Communities in the Global Drug Problem: Developing an International Non-Governmental Organization Strategy", New York;

(iii) 1994 Non-Governmental Organization World Forum, Bangkok;

(iv) Annual United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June).

Other relevant activities

The President of Daytop hosted the visit of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme at Daytop headquarters to develop a stronger collaboration in implementing the goals of the United Nations on a regional and international level.

7. DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

Defence for Children International (DCI) is an independent non-governmental organization set up during the International Year of the Child (1979) to ensure systematic and concerted international action specifically directed towards promoting and protecting the rights of the child.

The organization's aims are to foster awareness about, and solidarity around, children's rights situations throughout the world and to seek, promote and implement the most effective means of securing the protection of these rights in concrete situations, from both a preventive and a curative standpoint.

DCI publishes information on all aspects of children's rights, through regular and ad hoc publications; takes up specific cases of violations of children's rights; undertakes action-oriented investigations, alone or jointly, on serious global problems, for example, the sexual exploitation of children, and children in prison; monitors implementation of accepted children's rights; works for improved international standards in the children's rights sphere and stimulates cooperation and action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to improve responses to children's rights problems.

DCI is an international movement that has a membership of individuals and organizations in over 70 countries on all continents. Some 20 new national sections and coalitions of national non-governmental organizations have affiliated to DCI in the past four years and the organization now has sections and members in 60 countries. Subscribers, correspondents and information exchange agreements exist in many more.

DCI is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); with the Council of Europe and, since 1994, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

Through its international secretariat in Geneva and its permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, DCI has maintained regular contacts with the United Nations and UNICEF particularly in matters concerning the promotion and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During the last four years, representatives of DCI have actively participated in conferences and sessions of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs, particularly the forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. DCI attended and contributed to the meetings of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of

Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, making oral or written statements separately or jointly with other related non-governmental organizations. DCI worked closely with the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, providing assistance for field visits and substantive information. DCI participated in the process regarding draft optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on involvement of children in armed conflicts. A statement was presented to the Commission on Human Rights at its first special session with respect to discussing the situation in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in relation to evacuation of children from conflict areas (1992).

A training programme of the United Nations machinery dealing with the promotion and protection of children's rights is provided by DCI to members of non-governmental organizations and academic institutions through an internship programme as well as a South-to-North exchange programme in Geneva.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

DCI regularly participates in the three annual sessions of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. DCI serves as the secretariat to the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and contributes to securing non-governmental organization participation and the most effective possible cooperation in the monitoring process. The Group is composed of some 40 international non-governmental organizations and meets regularly with observers from UNICEF, the Secretary of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Centre for Human Rights) and representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNESCO. The NGO Group facilitates the participation of national coalitions for the Convention on the Rights of the Child in some 60 countries. Several DCI sections, or national coalitions of non-governmental organizations represented by members of DCI, submitted reports complementary to the State reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

United Nations conferences and meetings

DCI participated in United Nations conferences and meetings including:

(a) World Conferences on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993);

(b) International Year of the Family (1994). Convened the workshop on children's rights at the World Forum of NGOs in Malta in 1993;

(c) World Summit for Social Development. Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit and activities with the NGO Caucus on the Rights of the Child (Copenhagen, 1995);

(d) Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and activities on rights of the girl child at the NGO Forum in cooperation with UNICEF;

(e) Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 1995) and preparatory meetings.

DCI participates actively in the activities of the community of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. During the period under review, DCI was a member of the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), and attended its meetings in New York and Geneva. DCI participated as well in the NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention, Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat) and since 1995 has served as Secretariat of the NGO Committee on Human Rights.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

During the period under review, DCI continued to develop close cooperation with UNICEF in the framework of different projects and international United Nations conferences. DCI representatives attended Executive Board meetings of UNICEF and as member of the Board of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, DCI participated actively in the Committee's Working Groups on the Rights of the Child, and Children in Armed Conflict, and the Planning Committee for the NGO Forum, Guatemala, on exploited children (1993).

DCI continued to be a member of the NGO-UNICEF Coordinating Committee on Eastern and Central Europe, meeting regularly in Geneva to exchange information and coordinate efforts. DCI with UNICEF ensured the compilation of a directory of non-governmental organization projects in the region which was first produced in 1993, with the assistance of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service. Activities in cooperation with UNICEF included the organization of a series of seminars and missions in Eastern and Central Europe related to intercountry adoption and abandoned children in Romania, Albania, the former Yugoslavia and other countries in the region, including a joint mission with UNICEF and UNHCR, and The Hague Conference on Private International Law, to Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, on unaccompanied displaced and/or abandoned children, and intercountry adoption (1993).

DCI maintained regular cooperation with a view to developing joint projects with UNESCO, with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in Vienna and with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

DCI continues to be involved in the Council of Europe Programme on Childhood Policies since 1993, paying special attention to the question of the participation of the child in family life.

DCI played an active role at all meetings of the Special Commission set up by The Hague Conference on Private International Law to draft The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption (1993).

Other DCI activities

DCI organized and participated in a variety of activities and seminars on children's rights worldwide, on subjects ranging from juvenile justice, child labour, trafficking and sale and intercountry adoption, children as victims of armed conflicts, participation, and education at the national and international levels, to which United Nations officers are regularly invited.

DCI's publications included the International Children's Rights Monitor, a quarterly published in English, French and Spanish and distributed to some 90 countries and the International Yearbook of Children's Rights (since 1993). DCI with other international non-governmental organizations within the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child produced a brochure explaining the United Nations programme of action to combat the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and in 1995 published a kit on International Standards concerning the Rights of the Child, in English, French and Spanish, comprising all relevant international juridical instruments of special interest to organizations and individuals concerned. The organization further developed its unique Documentation Centre on children's rights which now contains some 11,000 references in the computerized database. In 1992, with the support of UNICEF and Rädda Barnen International (Save the Children/Sweden), DCI initiated a process of cooperation with non-governmental organizations UNICEF and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, in order to provide reliable data on country situations and on specific themes. As a result of this process, CRIN (Children's Rights Information Network) was created in 1995, linking information systems on children's rights worldwide.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

8. DISABLED PEOPLE'S INTERNATIONAL

(Special consultative status)

Disabled People's International (DPI) is a network of cross-disability national assemblies of self-help organizations of disabled persons in over 115 countries around the world. The purpose of DPI is to promote the human rights of disabled people through full participation, equalization of opportunity and development.

The organization has an ongoing group of volunteer representatives at the United Nations in New York; has representatives at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva; has representatives at meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly; makes submissions to prep committee meetings; attends United Nations conferences and non-governmental organization forums; reports on United Nations programmes and activities through its trilingual, internationally distributed magazine Disability International; and distributes United Nations documents to membership.

Over the entire period, the organization's representatives in New York have participated in non-governmental organization committees concerned with advancement of women, with ageing, with disability and with youth, often serving as officers of these committees. The representatives have been active in discussing disability issues with governmental delegates to United Nations meetings.

1992:

(a) The organization's Chairperson, Joshua Malinga, addressed the General Assembly on the closing of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons;

(b) The organization's representatives addressed the NGO Forum and attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio;

(c) The organization's representative in Vienna assisted in the reactivation of the NGO Committee on Disabled Persons and in organizing a one-day symposium on children and youth with disabilities, jointly with the United Nations and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

1993:

(a) The organization led a delegation of representatives from Disabled People's International, the World Federation of the Deaf, the World Blind Union, and the International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap to meet with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali;

(b) The organization's representatives addressed the NGO Forum and attended the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna;

(c) Representatives were active in the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva and in the adoption of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

1994:

(a) The organization's representatives were active in the inter-sessional working group of the Commission on the Status of Women providing input to the Platform for Action[3] that was being developed, as well as in the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development and the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development;

(b) The organization's representatives addressed the NGO Forum and attended the International Conference on Population and Development;

(c) As a result of the Commission on Human Rights international study on the violations of the human rights of disabled people (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/31) (1991), conducted by Leandro Despouy, the organization internationally circulated a questionnaire researching member knowledge of instruments for the protection of disabled people's human rights and implemented the creation of an international structure modelled after Amnesty International;

(d) The organization's past Chairperson, Joshua Malinga, and North American/Caribbean regional Chairperson, Monica Bartley, were appointed to the Special Experts Group on the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The organization distributed this document to its National Assemblies and World Council.

The organization reported on United Nations activities and events and organized participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women at the organization's World Assembly in Sydney, Australia.

1995:

(a) The organization's representatives participated in the final of the Preparatory Committee session for the World Summit for Social Development, addressed the NGO Forum and attended the World Summit for Social Development;

(b) The organization's representatives were active in the final preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women, addressed the NGO Forum and attended the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Funds received from United Nations bodies

	US dollars
1995	
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)	10 000
United Nations industrial development fund grant	30 600
1993	
United Nations voluntary trust fund	34 500
UNIFEM grant	8 700
1992	
United Nations voluntary trust fund	3 750
Total	87 550

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[2] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap I, resolution 1, annex II.

9. FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS (FAFICS)

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

The Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) has 19 member associations in different parts of the world. In the last four years, six new members have joined from Auckland, Turin, Vienna, Bogota, Colombo and Moscow.

A non-governmental organization in special consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council, FAFICS undertakes to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations system and support the work of the Organization and bodies of the system, both directly and through its member organizations in accordance with their competencies.

Other aims of FAFICS include representation of former officials on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board; social contacts among former and serving officials; mutual help among members; fostering of the concept of an international community.

Participation in United Nations meetings

Among the United Nations meetings in which FAFICS has participated are the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. FAFICS made a statement to the Commission at its fifty-first session on the detention and imprisonment of international civil servants. FAFICS had also participated in a meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on ageing populations, in the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995; and in the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995.

FAFICS is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) and has participated in all its meetings.

It has participated in sessions of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and its Standing Committee, on which bodies it is the official representative of all United Nations system pensioners; in sessions of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC); and in a session of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and its Task Force on Long-Term Care.

Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

In supporting the work of the United Nations, member associations have undertaken a number of activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. These have included special meetings and publications; gifts of trees and shrubs to the United Nations parks in New York, Geneva and Vienna and the garden of the International Maritime Organization (IMO); art exhibitions; joint action with United Nations associations; lectures; and so on.

Other substantive activities

Member associations have cooperated with other non-governmental organizations in activities such as tree-planting, care for underprivileged children and public health.

10. FEDERATION OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIONS OF THE EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

Founded in 1932, the Experiment in International Living (the Experiment) was the first international education and cultural exchange organization in the world. Its mission is to involve individuals in programmes of intercultural learning, as one way to develop their understanding of and respect for people throughout the world.

The many programmes of the Experiment represent a personal approach to global understanding and learning. The basic programme types are cultural orientations, individual home-stays with a family, educational group travel for teenagers through elders, international academic study, language training, au pair/home-stays, training in skills for international development, and the management of development projects. Intercultural learning is the common thread.

Originally based in the United States of America, the Experiment evolved into a worldwide federation, currently representing organizations in over 20 nations. These national organizations, through cooperative sharing of international responsibility in the Experiment movement, strive to contribute to a more peaceful world and maintain the highest educational principles and standards. Governed by a General Assembly which convenes annually, the Federation of National Representations of the Experiment in International Living is registered in Switzerland. The Federation's member organizations are privately run, non-profit, non-political, and non-religious. Each has met the standards for acceptance into the Federation and operates with autonomy.

In addition to its relationship with the Economic and Social Council since 1978, the Experiment has been in consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 1958, and with the Council of Europe since 1981.

Activities relevant to the United Nations

The Irish Experiment organized a programme on "Cultures in Conflict" which brought together Palestinians and Israelis plus Irish Catholics and Irish Protestants in order to share ideas on conflict resolution and reconciliation. The programme took place in October of 1995 in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

The Indian Experiment hosted a General International Meeting in March of 1993 on the theme "Indian Vision" attended by participants from 15 countries. One of the workshops was on "the role of the Experiment in promoting intercultural understanding". The Experiment in International Living India has arranged programmes around the following themes/days: International Literacy Day, International Day of Peace, Human Rights Day and United Nations Day. The

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activities on International Literacy Day at the Experiment in International Living centre in Bhilwara, India, in 1995, for example, involved over 200 students at a secondary school signing up for the "Each One Teach One" programme whereby they promised to teach at least one person "the three Rs". The Experiment in International Living India also organizes an annual All India Meet for Experimenters in that country which has been on the following themes: "the United Nations beyond the year 2000", and "the role of the family in education and social development".

The Mexican Experiment recruited and sent a group of post-university students to take part in the United States National Model United Nations Conference in April 1995. The programme marked the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and was held in New York.

The Experiment in International Living United States of America member invited to its campus Nepal's Ambassador to the United Nations in November of 1993. He spoke on "Key issues facing the United Nations".

The United States member (World Learning) operating in The Consortium with World Education, and Save the Children USA was invited by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist Laos repatriating from refugee camps in Thailand. The Consortium also worked in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to assist in establishing cluster school systems in the provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Takeo and Stung Treng.

Conferences

Experiment representatives participated in the following:

(a) Annual conference of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat/Non-Governmental Organizations, September 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 in New York. (An Experiment in International Living representative served as a rapporteur during the 1993 conference.);

(b) A British Experiment official represented the organization at the NGO Forum launch event for the International Year of the Family. The programme in Valletta, Malta, in November 1993 was called "Promoting Families for the Well-Being of Individuals and Societies". The theme is particularly relevant to EIL which believes that the family is the most important educational institution; therefore, the most effective intercultural programmes take place in a home-stay (family) situation;

(c) An EIL delegate attended, as an observer, the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo, Egypt, September 1994, as well as the related NGO Forum. The delegate had also attended a session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference in New York prior to the main Conference together with some students who came as observers. The students were enrolled in a class entitled "Women, Development, and Health" at the School for

International Training which is the academic branch of our United States member organization, World Learning;

(d) One United States delegate attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio in June 1992;

(e) Three delegates from the Danish Experiment attended the World Summit for Social Development and the related NGO Forum in Copenhagen in March 1995;

(f) EIL sent two delegates as observers to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing as well as to the NGO Forum in Huairou, China, in September 1995. A panel discussion was arranged on the School for International Training campus to discuss this Conference.

Other United Nations events attended include the meeting entitled "Families and the Well-Being of Society", 16 May 1994 in New York; the twenty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), April 1992; an Observance in Honour of the Victims of Extreme Poverty in October 1995; and the fiftieth anniversary programme of UNHCR on 25 October 1995.

Non-governmental organization committees

The Experiment in International Living is a member of the following non-governmental organization committees: Executive Board of the NGO Committee on Youth at United Nations Headquarters; NGO Committee on Sustainable Development and the Environment; NGO Committee on Human Rights (New York); NGO Committee on Disarmament; and NGO Committee on the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

In support of the United Nations

EIL representatives to the United Nations in New York have attended non-governmental organization briefings.

Newsletters of the Federation and of its member organizations regularly feature articles on the United Nations and the Experiment's support for it. The Indian Experiment, for example, featured in its October-December 1995 issue a special supplement of eight pages of text and photos on the topic of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Included were a conversation with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali; an article on India and the United Nations by an Indian Government Minister; a feature on the United Nations in the next 50 years by a former Foreign Secretary of the Indian Government; and an article entitled "Give the United Nations a Big Hand" by the Director of the United Nations information centre for India and Bhutan.

11. FOUR DIRECTIONS COUNCIL

(Special consultative status)

Introductory statement

Four Directions Council (FDC) was organized for the purpose of ensuring meaningful access to international forums for the traditional civic and religious leadership of indigenous communities. A core group of North American indigenous nations has supported the operation of this non-governmental organization at community expense to ensure accountability. Routine coordination and representation are entrusted to volunteers from constituent indigenous nations. Technical assistance in gaining a voice in the international system is supplied to indigenous peoples in any part of the world upon request, and without charge.

Relevant activities in 1992-1995

In 1993, the FDC coordination centre was moved to the University of Lethbridge (Canada), in the territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, one of North America's largest indigenous nations. This move reflects a shift in operational focus, towards greater involvement in technical assistance and exchanges of expertise at the grass-roots level. At the same time, arrangements for cooperation and shared projects were made with indigenous lawyers and researchers at the Native Law Centre of the University of Saskatchewan, the Federated Saskatchewan Indian College, the Institute of Indigenous Government (Vancouver, British Columbia) and Red Crow Community College (Blackfoot-controlled). FDC will link indigenous expertise in North America with indigenous peoples in other regions of the world.

Representatives of the Four Directions Council continue to attend each annual session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, as well as its parent bodies, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and the Commission on Human Rights. FDC also participated actively in the first session (November 1995) of the new working group of the Commission on Human Rights established to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, in accordance with Commission resolution 1995/32.

Representatives of the Four Directions Council also participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in the World Conference on Human Rights, to which FDC sent a large indigenous youth delegation, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). FDC prepared the report entitled, "Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Knowledge and Management Practices", for the International Indigenous Commission, the coalition of indigenous non-governmental organizations that participated in the Conference.

A group of indigenous students, which was organized by FDC at the University of Michigan, contributed research papers and draft texts to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and attended the Conference at Cairo. FDC representatives addressed the first session of the

Commission on Sustainable Development in 1993, as well as the first session in 1994 of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

The General Agent of the Organization was involved in developing, at the level of the General Assembly, plans for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993) and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2004). Delphine Redshirt Shaw, FDC representative at New York, is also chair of the NGO Subcommittee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Under a cooperative agreement with the Rigoberta Menchu Foundation, FDC and the Foundation currently share New York representation and facilities.

A major interest of the organization since 1992 has been building a network for sharing grass-roots expertise in sustainable development. This programme has been supported by the International Labour Office and is currently negotiating financing from Canada's International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. So far, 48 organizations in Latin America, South-East Asia and Africa have been linked by phone, and efforts are under way to launch a series of workshops and exchanges of individual experts by the end of 1996.

A second key concern of this organization is the conservation and protection of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, as well as related cultural resources. FDC supplied consultants for the 1993-1996 study by Erica-Irene Daes on "The heritage of indigenous peoples" for the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.[1] FDC also presented a major study entitled, "Indigenous Peoples, Forests, and Biodiversity", to the new secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP)), and has been invited to send an expert to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-World Health Organization (WHO) seminar on "Culture and Health: A Holistic Approach to Health Practices", in Thailand (27-31 May 1996).

A third major concern of this organization is protecting the land and environmental quality of indigenous communities in the face of the growing pressures arising from privatization and trade liberalization, especially in the South. FDC supplied consultants and researchers for three reports by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations regarding transnational corporations impacts on the lands of indigenous peoples,[2] and, in cooperation with students at Harvard Law School, is presently preparing a study on the adequacy of national institutions to redress environmental damages caused by transnational corporations, for presentation to the Subcommission in August 1996 in response to Subcommission resolution 1995/31 (24 August 1995).

FDC activities during the period 1992-1995 also included arranging United Nations internships for promising students (six at New York, two at Geneva) and participating in community-level information meetings. A regional workshop on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples was convened at Denver in June 1992 in cooperation with the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec); and workshops on human rights for indigenous human rights defenders were organized on Prince Edward Island, Canada, in April 1994 and April 1995. The organization's office also responds several times each week to requests for copies of United Nations documents, or for briefings on upcoming United Nations meetings, from indigenous communities.

Notes

[1] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/49; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/54; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/40.

[2] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/28; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/31; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/26.

12. HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNET (HRI)

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

Human Rights Internet (HRI), an international non-governmental organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, was founded in 1976 on the premise that accurate, comprehensive and timely information is a precondition for the protection and promotion of human rights. HRI supports the work of the human rights community, especially organizations on the front line of the human rights struggle, through information and documentation, research, education and technical cooperation. Committed to the promotion and protection of all those rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and in other international human rights instruments, HRI follows and participates in the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

HRI networks with several thousand human rights advocates, scholars and policy makers on all continents. In recent years, HRI's network has extended into Eastern and Central Europe and has reached out to the new human rights organizations that have emerged in Africa.

HRI receives funding and/or accepts contracts from a variety of sources including the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (Montreal), Health Canada, Heritage Canada, the Documentation Centre of the Immigration and Refugee Board, United Nations bodies (for example, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and private foundations.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and United Nations meetings

For the past four years, HRI has regularly attended the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. It has also attended, though on a less regular basis, sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and of the various treaty bodies. Additionally, HRI has provided information to United Nations rapporteurs, including the rapporteurs on extralegal executions, torture and violence against women.

HRI played a major role in the process leading up to the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, participating in the preparatory and regional meetings and organizing a national conference (satellite meeting) in Ottawa in April 1993. It provided the United Nations Centre for Human Rights with a list of human rights non-governmental organizations worldwide to assist the United Nations in drawing up invitations to non-governmental organizations that were not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Five staff members attended the World Conference in Vienna in June 1993. HRI was elected to the NGO Liaison Committee formed at the World Conference, organized training workshops during the NGO Forum, and produced four pages of the daily Conference newspaper. Two special issues of HRI's quarterly magazine, Human Rights

Tribune, were devoted to the conference, offering a pre- and post-conference report.

HRI played a similar role in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995. Five staff members attended the government conference and the NGO Forum in Huairou; HRI actively participated in the various non-governmental caucuses; the November 1995 issue of the Tribune had a special Beijing supplement. In addition, the HRI team assisted the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Beijing Express project: it raised $73,000 from CIDA as a contribution to UNDP; HRI staff travelled on the train and took part in the on-board training of the 150 participants from Eastern and Central Europe, with workshops in human rights and women's rights; and HRI produced the train newspaper, Beijing Xpress.

HRI has participated in and closely followed the work of the Economic and Social Council's Open-Ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations. This information has been shared with the human rights community through articles in the Human Rights Tribune.

Cooperation with United Nations Programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

HRI has worked closely with UNICEF to establish an international network of children's rights information, completing a study of the information that intergovernmental organizations maintain on children's rights, and producing a directory and database of non-governmental children's rights organizations with an interest in information. HRI has also provided funding for UNICEF (in Florence) to develop a Central American database on institutions researching children's rights as well as a database on non-discrimination.

HRI's Executive Director went to Albania in July 1994 on behalf of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to meet with human rights advocates in Tirana and to explore the possibilities of establishing a human rights documentation centre in that country.

In July-August 1994, HRI's Executive Director undertook a study mission to South Africa for the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and prepared a report on how the United Nations could assist Fort Hare University in establishing a national human rights documentation centre and network.

In March 1994, HRI collaborated with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva to organize a day-long workshop on "Labour Rights as Human Rights" for non-governmental organizations attending the session of the Commission on Human Rights.

In March 1993, HRI's Executive Director headed a working group at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Conference on Human Rights Education and prepared a background paper on developments in the area of documentation on information about human rights education.

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Other relevant activities

HRI has been asked to assist the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to establish a documentation centre on human rights at the Palais des Nations. HRI is currently attempting to secure funding for this project.

HRI has organized and/or participated in seminars and workshops on the United Nations human rights system and on subjects of concern to United Nations human rights bodies. This included a consultation that HRI organized on "The Right to Development" (April 1995, Ottawa), which featured, as experts, a former United Nations Rapporteur on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the then Special Assistant to the Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

HRI's Executive Director has written numerous articles in academic and policy journals, and lectured widely on the work of human rights non-governmental organizations in the United Nations system and on the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights.

HRI has carried many articles in the Human Rights Tribune spotlighting the work of the United Nations. This has included, *inter alia*, stories on the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Working Group on Human Rights Defenders, and the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

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13. INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

(Special consultative status)

During 1992-1995, the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) continued in all areas to intensify its activities supporting, defending and promoting freedom of expression and of the press in the Americas and fundamental freedom as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[1] No substantial changes have occurred in geographical membership, funding or affiliation during this period.

Officers or delegates of the Association have participated in the following United Nations events:

(a) April 1992: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Programme for the Development of Communications, Paris;

(b) March 1993: United Nations Commission on Human Rights session, Geneva;

(c) July 1993: Planning session for the UNESCO seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, Paris;

(d) February 1994: Consultative Committee, planning meeting for the UNESCO seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, Quito;

(e) March 1994: Hemisphere Conference on Free Speech organized by IAPA and chaired by former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, Mexico;

(f) May 1994: UNESCO Seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago;

(g) May 1995: Endorsement of the Declaration of Chapultepec by Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO, Paris.

During the past four years the Association's milestones can be described in the following terms:

On 11 March 1994, the Hemisphere Conference on Free Speech was held in the castle of Chapultepec in Mexico City. The outcome of the Declaration of Chapultepec, which has been endorsed by 11 presidents and the Director-General of UNESCO.

From 2 to 6 May 1994, IAPA participated in the UNESCO seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, at which the Declaration of Santiago principles defending free speech were approved. In addition to assuming an active role in panels and conferences, the Association presented two background papers, on "Economic and Editorial Self-Sufficiency: Condition for a Pluralistic Regional Press" and on "Difficulties and Dangers for a Free Press in the Americas".

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From 5 to 7 September 1995, a Hemisphere Conference on Modernizing Journalism in Cantigny, Chicago, was held. From this gathering an action plan emerged that is now setting the agenda to better prepare journalism school graduates.

In March 1995, the Board of Directors decided to change the dates of the Press Freedom Day in the Western Hemisphere to endorse UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day (3 May).

During the four-year period, the Press Freedom Project has closely monitored freedom of expression in the Western Hemisphere drafting country-by-country reports with IAPA's Committee of Freedom of the Press and Information along with conclusions and resolutions approved by the Board of Directors. During these years, special missions have gone to Chile, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Honduras, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The IAPA Technical Centre changed its name in 1995 to the IAPA Press Institute and has increased the number of seminars aimed at improving and strengthening the print media in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the years 1992-1995, 34 seminars were held. They were attended by approximately 2,000 participants. These seminars were held in the United States of America, Colombia, Argentina, Panama, Honduras, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Mexico, Aruba, Barbados, El Salvador, Peru and Brazil.

The Association's Scholarship Fund has continued to provide grants that underwrite an exchange of Western Hemisphere journalists. In this four-year period, a total of 14 scholars have been awarded scholarships. IAPA's annual Awards Programme continues to recognize newspapers and journalists for news coverage and the promotion of friendship and understanding among the countries of the Americas.

Among entities collaborating or co-sponsoring seminars were the Association de Entidades Periodísticas Argentinas (ADEPA), the Newspaper Association of America (NAA), the Inland Press Association, the World Press Freedom Committee, Asociación Nacional de la Prensa de Chile (ANP), the Poynter Institute, Asociación de Diarios Colombianos (ANDIARIOS), Federación de Editores de Periódicos (FIEJ), the Tinker Foundation, the American Press Institute, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The McCormick Tribune Foundation, the Center for Foreign Journalists, the Freedom Forum, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

All activities of IAPA continue to be financed exclusively by dues and contributions from members and news-related foundations. The organization receives no financial assistance directly or indirectly from any Government or governmental body.

Current association officers for fiscal year 1995-1996 are David Lawrence, Jr. (United States), President; Luis Gabriel Cano (Colombia), first Vice-President; Oliver Clarke (Jamaica), second Vice-President; Héctor Dávalos (Mexico), secretary; Tony Pederson (United States), treasurer.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

14. INTERNATIONAL ALERT

(Special consultative status)

Brief introductory statement recalling aims and purposes of the organization

As an organization, International Alert (IA) seeks to achieve the following objectives:

(a) To help bring peace to countries at war within themselves;

(b) To alert international opinion to danger areas of actual and potential conflict, mass killings and genocide;

(c) To provide opportunities for dialogue and discussion with a view to ending conflicts;

(d) To seek and propose constitutional provisions that protect and respect linguistic, ethnic, religious and other minorities;

(e) To promote the human rights and development of groups and individuals within national borders and internationally.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or United Nations conferences

International Alert, led by its Secretary-General, participated in a round-table discussion on preventive diplomacy and the United Nations Agenda for Peace entitled "Preventive Diplomacy: A United Nations/Non-Governmental Organization Partnership in the 1990s". The discussion took place at the United Nations in New York from 28 to 30 January 1993, and was co-organized by the United Nations University.

International Alert presented a position paper to the World Conference on Human Rights held from 14 to 25 June 1993 in Vienna entitled "Extending the Frontiers of Human Rights".

On 6 December 1994, the Secretary-General and an International Alert trustee met with Boutros Boutros-Ghali in New York to discuss the role of non-governmental organizations in conflict resolution.

In December 1994, International Alert presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a comprehensive analysis of regional policies regarding the conflict in Liberia.

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Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

From 3 to 10 December 1994, IA in collaboration with the International Peace Research Association and in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held the "Jal-El-Deeb Training Workshop" (Lebanon) which aimed to enhance the capacities of Lebanese non-governmental organizations in conflict resolution. Some funding was provided by UNESCO.

A colloquium organized by International Alert in consultation with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Burundi was held in London on 3 February 1995. The colloquium agreed to a common action plan for the conflict in Burundi. United Nations participants included representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the Department for Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

International Alert led a mission to Burundi from 22 to 26 February 1995 to present the action plan formulated at the London colloquium to a wide spectrum of the Burundian political establishment. It also discussed with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Burundi mechanisms for ensuring complementarity between the work of International Alert and the United Nations in Burundi. The mission was facilitated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Burundi.

The following projects were organized in close collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (Burundi):

(a) Twenty-five senior figures from all sectors of society of Burundi took part in a study tour to South Africa from 6 to 15 May 1995. The aim was to expose the participants to the South African experience of reconciliation and peaceful transition. The delegation was accompanied by the Senior Political Adviser of the United Nations mission in Burundi. Ambassador Ould-Abdallah also met the delegation after the tour. As an immediate consequence of this study tour, the participants formed a Burundi peace group known as the "Company of Apostles of Peace";

(b) International Alert, in partnership with the Agency for the Constructive Resolution of Conflicts (ACCORD) and the Company of Apostles of Peace, conducted the Mpumalanga Peace Mission to Burundi from 28 July to 3 August 1995. The mission sought to communicate the successful peacemaking experiences of Mpumalanga more widely in Burundi and introduce the South African idea of Local Peace Committees;

(c) A "Training in Conflict Resolution" seminar, jointly organized by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Burundi, International Alert, the Agency for the Constructive

Resolution of Conflicts and the Technical Commission entrusted with preparing the National Debate in Burundi, was held in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 9 to 11 August 1995. The seminar facilitated preparations for the national debate in Burundi. The leader of the education programme at the United Nations Centre for Human Rights attended by the seminar;

(d) International Alert led a tour of South Africa for politicians of Burundi from 17 to 24 September 1995. The Political Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Burundi accompanied the tour. The tour sought to expose politicians of Burundi to the successful experiences of peacemaking and political compromise in South Africa;

(e) From 4 to 6 October 1995, an International Alert Peace Envoy facilitated a workshop entitled "Towards the Participation of Citizens in Peacemaking in Burundi". It sought to convey the conflict resolution experiences of the Philippines and other countries to Burundis in preparation for the national debate in Burundi;

(f) International Alert organized a study tour to South Africa by Burundi military officers from 8 to 18 October 1995. The tour sought to encourage reform in the Burundi army by reference to the South African experience. The tour ended with an audience with President Nelson Mandela;

(g) During 1995, International Alert worked with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Search for Common Ground to organize peacemaking training workshops with Burundi women's groups which will take place in 1996.

Other relevant activities

International Alert and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) jointly published a Discussion Paper (No. 59) entitled "The Social Impacts of Light Weapons Availability and Proliferation" in March 1995. The publication was commissioned by UNRISD as part of its activities for the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen.

International Alert's Secretary-General prepared a paper entitled "The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Early Warning and Conflict Resolution" for presentation to the Round Table on Conflict Prevention and the United Nations Agenda for Peace held in New York on 29 and 30 January 1993.

The following conflict resolution seminars were co-organized with the United Nations University (Tokyo):

(a) A conflict resolution seminar was held in Moscow from 26 October to 13 November 1992;

(b) A training seminar dealing with improving the way people and organizations deal with conflict situations was held in Piatigorsk from 6 to 19 June 1993;

(c) A conflict resolution training seminar was held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 6 to 14 June 1994.

15. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT MAGISTRATES

(Special consultative status)

Introduction: aims of the Association

According to its constitution, the main object of the International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates (IAJFCM) is to establish links between judges, magistrates and specialists all over the world who are attached to a judicial authority, concerned with the protection of youth and the family; and also to examine legislation designed for the protection of youth and the family and to study, at an international level, all problems raised by the functioning of judicial authorities and bodies in this field.

International congresses

Turin (16-21 September 1990)

This thirteenth congress welcomed 567 participants, 272 of them coming from 38 countries outside Italy. The general theme was "New families: A challenge to judges and legislators at the dawn of the twenty-first century". There were six sub-themes:

(a) Artificial insemination and genetic engineering;

(b) Multicultural families;

(c) International adoption;

(d) Single-parent families;

(e) Violence within the family;

(f) New forms of assistance.

Bremen (28 August to 2 September 1994)

The main theme of this fourteenth congress was "Juvenile offenders and their families: the question of human rights". By choosing this theme, the Association wanted to hook on to the subject of the "International Year of the Family". Discussions at the congress focused on three sub-themes:

(a) Juvenile delinquency in urban areas;

(b) Judicial responses to juvenile delinquency;

(c) Alternatives to judicial responses.

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In plenary session and in a panel discussion, prominence was given to the observance of human rights in practical application of juvenile and family justice. About 400 participants from 63 countries attended this congress.

Regional seminars

Paris, 1-3 October 1992

A European seminar organized by the French Association of Juvenile and Family Court magistrates. The question chosen for discussion was "What guarantees does judicial intervention bring with respect of the rights of the child?"

Apart from the French delegates, there were also delegates from Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Switzerland.

After initial reports, work has been carried out in three workshops on the following items:

(a) Social versus judicial intervention;

(b) Procedural guarantees, impartiality and independence;

(c) Judicial stakes and symbolism.

Rosario (Argentina), 16-19 October 1992

This seminar was organized by the Law Faculty of the "Universidad Nacional" in close cooperation with Mr. Jorge Zaldarriaga, member of the Executive Council of IAJFCM.

The discussion took mainly place in workshops on the following themes:

(a) Alternatives to institutionalizing of abandoned children;

(b) Social control and minors in Latin America;

(c) International adoption: America versus Europe;

(d) Environmental and educational support for minors;

(e) Social violence and minors in Latin America;

(f) The profile of juvenile justice in Latin America.

Among others, there were delegates from Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela. A report containing all the resolutions from the workshops was prepared and circulated to all participants.

Shanghai, 14-16 November 1992

This seminar was organized in close cooperation with the Supreme Peoples Court of the People's Republic of China. It hosted 70 judges, lawyers, experts, scholars from 30 provinces of China, and more than 50 guests from 30 countries all over the world. The general theme of the seminar was "Prevention, Adjudication, Rehabilitation of Juvenile Delinquency". The seminar was extremely successful: 25 participants from various parts of the world gave remarkable presentations on the subject.

Belfast (Northern Ireland), 3-7 April 1995

With respect to the theme "Growing through conflict", profound studies were presented and intensive discussions held on the impact of 25 years of violence on young people growing up in Northern Ireland.

It was shown that, despite the ongoing conflict during so many years, remarkably much had been achieved in the field of youth care and guidance. Some studies reported that many young people had emerged from this troublesome period much better than expected.

The impact of the six months of ceasefire was striking.

Work with international organizations and non-governmental organizations

For many years, IAJFCM has been taking an active part in the work of international organizations directly interested in children and youth. A representative of IAJFCM, Mme. H. Veillard-Cybulska (Geneva) took part in the work on the United Nations to prepare the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Also the Association has been involved in the elaboration of the draft for minimum standard rules for the administration of juvenile justice. The former president of IAJFCM, Professor H. Schüller Springorum (Munich), was a leading expert selected by the United Nations to perform this elaboration.

Furthermore, IAJFCM representatives took part in the work of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the various specialized bodies of the United Nations such as the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). IAJFCM is also a member of a working group with the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

An enumeration follows below of the most recent and important activities of our representatives at the various international organizations.

UNICEF

As UNICEF has taken on an important role in the implementation of the Convention for the Rights of the Child, work on the implementation of the Convention is therefore a topic in the activities of the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

Out of this Committee a new group has been formed, the Group of NGOs on the Rights of the Child, and within this Group there are several sub-groups. Our Association, and more specifically our representative in Geneva and former president, André Dunant, has been asked to chair the sub-group that has to submit concrete proposals on the situation of the child in conflict with the law. More recently, Mr. Dunant has become Chairman of the above-mentioned non-governmental organization Group. He also represented our Association at an international seminar in Syracuse (Sicily, Italy) on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In the same capacity, Mr. Dunant was involved in organizing, together with three other organizations, the seminar entitled "Children in conflict with the law" (Latvia, 30 May-2 June 1994); this seminar was supported financially by the Council of Europe.

Our Association will continue its efforts in this field in close cooperation with Defence for Children International Movement.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

At the 253rd meeting of the Committee on 13 November 1995 in the General Discussion on "The Administration of Justice for Minors", the first Vice-President of the Association, Justice L. Beaulieu (Toronto), presented a statement on the position of the Association, stressing its intentions in this field. On behalf of the Association, he put forth some proposals with respect to making the situation of the rights of the child evolve in a favourable manner and also formulated some proposals in the field of the administration of justice for minors.

International Advisory, Scientific and Professional Council

The first meeting of this body was held in Milan, 21-23 September 1991, and was attended by the former president of the Association, Paolo Vercellone (Torino). The aim of this Council is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Mr. Vercellone has succeeded in obtaining approval for the constitution of a technical committee on juvenile justice.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Office at Vienna

A great deal of work is done by our representative, Mrs. Renate Winter, at the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Office at Vienna who was recently elected Chairman of the Alliance of Vienna-based NGOs.

Ninth United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 29 April-8 May 1995)

At the venue of the Bremen Congress, a resolution had been adopted to be presented at this Conference. The resolution concerned adoption and implementation of United Nations standards for juvenile justice. Thanks to the efforts of the Association's representative in Vienna, Mrs. Winter, the Austrian

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Government had been prepared to present this resolution in the United Nations Conference, where it was adopted.[2] At this Conference, the Association was represented by a member of the Association's General Purpose Committee, Mr. A. Selih of Slovenia.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[2] See Report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Cairo, 29 April-8 May 1995 (A/CONF.169/16), chap. I, resolution 7.

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16. INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF SOCIOLOGICAL, PENAL AND PENITENTIARY RESEARCH AND STUDIES

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes of the organization

The fundamental purpose of the International Centre of Sociological, Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies (INTERCENTER) is to study the different forms of criminality that are in danger of compromising democratic society and threaten our fundamental institutions.

Bearing in mind that sociological, penal and penitentiary components are inseparable for a comprehensive study of criminal phenomena, the Centre's statute states that research, progress and development factors, as well as studies made by the Centre, must be carried out using multidisciplinary methods.

Although the Centre considers it indispensable to maintain a high cultural and scientific standard - guaranteed by the distinguished members of its Scientific Committee coming from different countries all over the world - it does not intend to limit the employment of its energies to the advancement of knowledge alone, but also wishes to contribute to an in-depth analysis of the numerous aspects of developing and developed countries that have been brought to light by sociological and ancillary disciplinary studies. The Centre thus aims at offering research workers, scholars and persons responsible for national and international decision-making the possibility of broadening their own specific knowledge through the technical and other facilities available.

This Centre, in fact, intends to study, through careful research, the problems of the world today and to cooperate towards their solution.

The Centre also intends to give further study to the concepts and content of human rights within the various countries throughout the world and to contribute towards the research for methods and means by which these rights should be fully acknowledged and respected.

In accordance with its statute, the Centre contributes to assisting national and international experts in the various disciplines in improving their knowledge of new techniques in allied fields. To this end, the Centre organizes relevant short-term specialized courses.

Finally, the Centre can offer qualified advice to governmental and non-governmental bodies and to national and international institutions and organizations.

The Centre is a non-profit-making organization. It is financed by contributions from the Sicilian Regional Administration from local bodies and from institutions instrumental in its foundation, and from subscriptions of members and other private and public bodies, and other donations, contributions and subsidies to its activities.

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Scientific sections: Argentina (1. Fundación Convivir, Buenos Aires; 2. Centro de Estudios Criminologicos, Policiales y Penitencirios, Rosario); Australia (Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra); Belgium (Centre national de Criminologie, Bruxelles); Canada (1. Department of Criminology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby; 2. Faculté de droit, Université de Sherbrooke); Colombia (Escuela Judicial "Bonilla", Bogotá); Côte d'Ivoire (Institut de criminologie, Université nationale de Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan); Egypt (Police Centre, Police Academy, Abbassia, Cairo); France (Institut de Criminologie, Université de Paris: Panthéon Assas II, Paris); India (Department of Psychology, Barkatullah University, Bhopal); Japan (Faculty of International Relations, Asia University, Tokyo); Mauritius (Prison Headquarters, Beau Bassin); China (Public Security Ministry, Beijing); Portugal (Escola de Policia Judiciaria, Barro-Loures); Senegal (Institut des droits de l'homme et de la paix, Université de Dakar); Spain (Facultad de Derecho, Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency, King's College, London); United States of America (Department of Criminal Justice, University of Illinois, Chicago).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and in other meetings and conferences

The Centre participated in the:

(a) First session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 21-30 April 1992);

(b) World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June 1993);

(c) European Regional Meeting of the United Nations (Vienna, 28 February-4 March 1994);

(d) World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime (Naples, 21-23 November 1994);

(e) Conference on "The Role and Functions of Civilian Police in Peace-keeping Operations: The Briefing and Lessons" (11-13 December 1995, Singapore).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

INTERCENTER cooperated in the:

(a) Mediterranean Conference on "Human Rights in the Mediterranean Sea: Economic, Social and Cultural Aspects" (12-15 March 1993, Taormina, Italy). This Conference was organized in cooperation with the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the patronage of the United Nations. The United Nations was officially represented by Mr. Y. Creydt (Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat);

/...

(b) "Global Strategy for Public Security: Handling of the Crisis" (12-20 September 1994, Lyons, France). This International Course for Higher Specialization for Police Forces was organized jointly by the Ministry of the Interior of France and INTERCENTER. The United Nations was officially represented by M. Roland Destickere, Chief of Security, Palais de Nations, Genève;

(c) "Technology, Police and Respect for Private Life" (10-19 October 1995, Taormina, Italy). This International Course for Higher Specialization for Police Forces was organized jointly by the Ministry of the Interior of Italy and INTERCENTER. The United Nations was officially represented by Ms. Nassrine Azimi, Deputy Executive Director, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva.

17. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY (CIDSE)

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes

International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE) is an international alliance of Catholic development organizations which presently counts 16 member organizations in 15 countries from Europe, North America and New Zealand (Aotearoa).

CIDSE presents, to the United Nations organizations and other international bodies, the justice and development perspectives of its member agencies and their partners, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America, in solidarity with and at the service of the poor and marginalized.

CIDSE's main role is to foster collaboration among its member organizations in four broad areas:

(a) Development projects and partnership in the South;

(b) Development education, advocacy, lobbying and representation;

(c) Fund-raising and marketing;

(d) Networking with other international non-governmental organizations.

This is achieved through information-sharing, dialogue, common reflection, analysis and joint action. CIDSE's constituency is much broader than its membership. It includes national and local Church structures in the South and North, partners, donor organizations and beneficiaries.

CIDSE is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Its Secretary-General is a Consultor of the Pontifical Council COR UNUM.

United Nations summits/meetings/conferences attended and to be attended

These events include:

(a) World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993. A two-member delegation attended this Conference;

(b) International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994. A three-member delegation including the President attended this Conference;

(c) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995. A 10-member delegation including the Secretary-General attended the Summit. CIDSE participated in other Summit-related activities as follows. It:

(i) Attended the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit. A five-member delegation attended the third session of the Preparatory Committee;

(ii) Actively participated in the Development Caucus;

(iii) Together with Caritas Internationalis and Justice and Peace Europe produced a statement for the Summit;

(iv) Together with Caritas Internationalis, Justice and Peace Europe and other American Catholic non-governmental organizations addressed the Summit on 10 March 1996. The address was delivered by James Hug, Society of Jesus (SJ), of the Center of Concern;

(d) Fourth United Nations Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995. A five-member delegation attended the Conference;

(e) Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996. A five-member delegation was scheduled to attend the Conference. In addition, CIDSE:

(i) Attended the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, New York, February 1996;

(ii) Was preparing a statement for the Conference;

(f) World Food Summit, Rome, 13-17 November 1996. A five-member delegation was scheduled to attend the Summit, and:

(i) Written input was being prepared;

(ii) At the time of the preparation of the present report, the mechanics of participation were still under discussion.

Other relevant activities

CIDSE participates in the follow-up to summit/conference resolutions at the level of the European Union and its member organizations in their respective national platforms.

CIDSE maintains informal contacts with staff of the United Nations Secretariat who liaise with non-governmental organizations.

18. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

(General consultative status)

Quadrennial Report of Activities (1992-1995)

Introductory statement

The aim of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) is to promote the education of adults in accordance with the development needs of individuals, communities and societies as a way of enhancing international understanding; achieving economic and social development; and advancing the skills and competencies of individuals and groups. In ICAE's vision, it is stated "that people live in an interdependent sustainable and democratic world with social, economic and political justice, which includes equality of gender relations, a universal right to learn, harmony with the environment, peace, respect for human rights and cultural diversity, and in which people are actively involved in the decisions affecting their lives".

ICAE has 105 national member organizations located in 85 countries worldwide, 7 regional organizations, and 4 sectoral member organizations. From 1992 to 1995, 18 new members joined the ICAE, from the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Hungary, the Philippines, Senegal, Spain, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan Province of China, Uganda, Uruguay, the United States of America, and Viet Nam.

ICAE is in category A status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, on the International Labour Organization (ILO) special list of non-governmental organizations, and in associate status with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

In this challenging funding environment, ICAE continues to struggle with the problem of obtaining secure funding from previously secure sources such as the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) (Sweden), the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA) (Finland), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) (Denmark). The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) (Canada) continues to support ICAE on a year-by-year basis.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Activities were as follows:

(a) The President and members of the Executive Committee attended and hosted workshops at the 1992 Earth Summit, and the NGO Global Forum in Rio de Janeiro, 1-12 June 1992;

(b) ICAE Secretary-General and members of the Executive Committee attended the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations

Conference on Environment and Development, 2 March-3 April 1992 in New York, United Nations Headquarters;

(c) ICAE representative attended the UNESCO International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, Montreal, Canada, 8-11 March 1993;

(d) Executive Committee member attended, as an observer, the United Nations Meeting for Promoting Tolerance and Harmony and Combating Racism and Racial Discrimination, Sydney, Australia, 19-23 April 1993;

(e) Secretary-General attended United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Preparatory Meeting on Education for All, UNICEF, New York, 8-9 June 1993;

(f) Peace and Human Rights Education Programme international and regional coordinators attended and hosted workshops at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, Austria, 14-25 June 1993;

(g) Secretary-General attended and made an oral statement on "Progress in the incorporation of recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the activities of international organizations and within the United Nations system" at the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, 14-25 June 1993;

(h) ICAE representative attended the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, New York, 30 August-10 September 1993;

(i) ICAE Executive Committee member attended the twenty-seventh session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Paris, France, 25 October-16 November 1993;

(j) ICAE President attended the first session, 31 January-11 February 1994 and the second session, 22 August-2 September 1994 of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Social Development in New York, and presented a written statement on "The Silence of Civil Society";

(k) Secretary-General attended UNESCO World Symposium on Family Literacy, Paris, 3-5 October 1994;

(l) Women's Programme coordinator participated in an Expert Group Meeting on Gender, Education and Training in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Turin, Italy, 10-14 October 1994;

(m) President and ICAE Executive Committee members attended World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995;

(n) ICAE representative attended the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 22-24 March 1995;

(o) President, regional representatives, Women's Programme coordinators and two staff members attended and hosted workshops at the NGO Forum of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 29 August-15 September 1995.

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Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Cooperation was as follows:

(a) ICAE representative attended the second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna, Austria, 13-23 April 1993;

(b) Secretary-General attended the eighth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, New York, 25-28 May 1993;

(c) Secretary-General attended thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Ottawa, Canada, 3-4 June 1993 and was asked to submit briefs on adult education to the Delors Commission (International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century);

(d) ICAE representative attended 80th session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, Switzerland, 2-22 June 1993;

(e) Secretary-General and Asian member representative participated in the second session of the International Consultative Forum on Education for All (EFA), NGO Network on EFA, New Delhi, India, 7-11 September 1993;

(f) Secretary-General and other ICAE representatives attended second session of the International Consultative Forum on Education for All, New Delhi, India, 8-10 September 1993;

(g) Secretary-General attended the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) Board meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 28 March 1994;

(h) Secretary-General attended and presented paper entitled "Adult Education and Lifelong Learning: Issues Concerns and Recommendations" to the regional meeting of the Delors Commission (International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century), Vancouver, Canada, 11-12 April 1994;

(i) ICAE representative attended the third session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna, Austria, 26 April-6 May 1994.

Other relevant activities

Activities were as follows:

(a) ICAE received funding from UNESCO in 1991. Funds were used in 1992 for ICAE's International Literacy Support Services;

(b) ICAE coordinated the International Journey on Environmental Education by Learning for the Environmental Action Programme Coordinator at NGO Forum-United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and distributed

Treaty on Environmental Education and Global Responsibility, Rio de Janeiro, 1-14 June 1992;

(c) ICAE served as adviser to the Delors International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century in 1993;

(d) Executive Committee member attended the Seventh General Assembly of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, 6-10 December 1993;

(e) Executive Committee member Lalla Ben Barka was awarded 1993 UNESCO-King Sejong Literacy Prize for coordinating the research for basic education in five Western African countries, and establishing a network of research in 11 Western and Central African countries;

(f) ICAE Women's Programme and the Instituto de Promoción Económico Social del Uruguay, and the Latin American Women's Popular Education Network co-organized a training seminar entitled "Feminization of Poverty", Montevideo, Uruguay, 6-9 June 1994, funded in part by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(g) ICAE past President, President and Treasurer attended First World Assembly of CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Mexico City, Mexico, 10-13 January 1995.

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19. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

(General consultative status)

Introduction

Founded in 1946, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) is the world farmers' organization. It groups 82 national farmers' organizations from 58 countries. During 1992-1995, IFAP extended its membership to include Belize, Brazil, Mali, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia and South Africa. IFAP is financed and governed by its member organizations.

The Federation aims "... to secure the fullest cooperation between organizations of primary producers in meeting the optimum nutritional and consumptive requirements of the peoples of the world and in improving the economic and social status of all who live by and on the land".

Participation in United Nations conferences and special events

Participation was as follows:

(a) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992:

(i) IFAP's President addressed the Conference, outlining the key role of farmers in managing the earth's natural resources;

(ii) IFAP was involved in the Preparatory Committee for the Conference process, particularly on chapter 32 of Agenda 21 on the role of farmers;

(b) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/World Health Organization (WHO) International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, Italy, 5-11 December 1993:

IFAP addressed the Conference. It was involved in the Preparatory Committee process (Geneva, 17-25 August 1992) and circulated to its members the "Guidelines for implementing the International Conference on Nutrition, October 1994";

(c) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa:

In 1993 and 1994, IFAP actively participated in the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

(d) International Year of the Family, 1994:

IFAP adopted a statement for the observance of the International Year of the Family in April 1994. Farm families represent the vast majority of the 500 million grass-roots members linked through their national organizations in IFAP;

(e) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995:

(i) IFAP's President addressed the Summit, affirming the essential role of farmers' organizations in the economic and social development of each nation;

(ii) IFAP was involved in the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit (22 August-2 September 1994, New York; 16-27 January 1995, New York) and the inter-sessional informal consultations in the framework of the General Assembly, New York, 24-28 October 1994;

(iii) The Secretary-General of IFAP participated in an expert consultation to plan follow-up action to the Summit, 22 and 23 June 1995, in New York;

(f) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 4-15 September 1995:

(i) IFAP addressed the Conference, stressing the need for increased recognition of the role of women in agriculture, and addressed the special emphasis on rural women;

(ii) IFAP held a Technical Consultation to prepare the farmers' input into the Beijing Conference with FAO in New York, linked to the Commission on the Status of Women, 15 March-4 April 1994, and took part in the regional preparatory meetings;

(g) Fiftieth anniversary celebrations of FAO, Quebec City, 11-15 October 1995:

(i) The IFAP President and other IFAP members made presentations to the International Symposium to celebrate this anniversary;

(ii) The IFAP Secretary-General addressed the Ministerial Conference, paying tribute to the achievements of FAO and of the United Nations over 50 years.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

Cooperation was as follows:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (A/49/213):

IFAP and 11 of its member organizations provided an input into this report through the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC);

(b) Economic and Social Council, New York, November-December 1994:

IFAP proposed a resolution on the "key role of farmers" during the debate on sustainable development;

(c) Group on the consultative Status of Non-Governmental Organizations, New York, 20-23 June 1994:

IFAP made a presentation stressing the importance of distinguishing between representative organizations, professional organizations and promotional non-governmental organizations;

(d) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome:

During 1992-1994, IFAP played an active role in the IFAD/NGO Steering Committee and called for a change in the composition of the IFAD/NGO Annual Consultation so as to include farmers' organizations and not only promotional non-governmental organizations. Subsequently, "Rural People's Organizations" was the theme of the 1994 IFAD/NGO Consultation;

(e) Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, 17-21 April 1995:

IFAP President participated in a panel debate on the "land" chapters of Agenda 21.

Joint work with the United Nations, its bodies and the specialized agencies

Joint work involved the following:

(a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York:

A partnership agreement was signed on 20 March 1995 between the UNDP Administrator and the IFAP Secretary-General, under the title of "Strengthening Small Farmers' Organizations in Developing Countries for Poverty Alleviation, Food Security and Sustainable Development";

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(b) FAO, Rome:

(i) In 1992-1993, a framework of cooperation was established between IFAP and FAO, following the submission of an issues paper by IFAP on "Improving dialogue and technical cooperation between IFAP and FAO in the promotion of peoples' participation in rural development";

(ii) A position paper was submitted to FAO on the FAO Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-Income, Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) in November 1994, on the eve of the launching of this programme;

(iii) IFAP addressed the biennial sessions of the Conferences of FAO in Rome, 6-25 November 1993, and 20-31 October 1995, and several other specialized meetings of FAO;

(c) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva:

An IFAP-UNCTAD Programme was established for ensuring greater participation of developing country farmers' organizations in trade. Within this framework, IFAP participated in the sessions of the Committee on Commodities and the Group of Experts on Risk Management;

(d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi:

IFAP's African Committee held a formal consultation with UNEP on the issues of desertification, biodiversity and soil fertility, Nairobi, Kenya, 9 December 1992.

Notes

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

20. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW GROUP

(Special consultative status)

Introductory statement

The International Human Rights Law Group (the Law Group) is a non-profit organization of human rights and legal professionals engaged in advocacy, litigation and training around the world. The Law Group's basic mission is to empower local advocates to expand the scope of human rights protection for men and women and to promote broad participation in building human rights standards and procedures at the national, regional and international levels. The Law Group is affiliated with the International Commission of Jurists, and maintains formal relations with the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Organization of African Unity. During the past four years, the Law Group has substantially expanded its field activities to include human rights programmes in Romania, Cambodia and Zaire, and the Law Group has operated offices in all of those countries.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

Between 1992 and 1995, the Law Group attended Commission on Human Rights sessions in Geneva in February and March of each year. At the Commission's sessions, the Law Group introduced both oral and written statements each year addressing thematic and country-specific items in the Commission's agenda. The Law Group also attended the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva in August 1992.

The Law Group regularly attends the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. In 1993, the Law Group attended the meeting in Vienna, and, following the Commission's move, the Law Group has attended the sessions in New York since 1994. At the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Law Group circulated written statements to delegates and non-governmental organizations on the integration of human rights into the framework of the Fourth World Conference on Women and on strengthening the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

In March 1993, March 1994, and March 1995, the Law Group also attended the sessions of the Human Rights Committee in New York. At those meetings, the Law Group monitored the review of country reports submitted in compliance with the requirements of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the review in 1995 of the first report submitted by the United States of America.

Law Group staff attended the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Vienna in January 1992 and in New York in January 1993, 1994, and 1995. At those sessions, the Law Group monitored the review of country reports by the Committee and provided input into the formulation of the Committee's general recommendations.

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The Law Group also attended in Geneva the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights (June 1993, Vienna). At the sessions of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, the Law Group called for greater integration of gender issues and for the strengthening of international human rights mechanisms. In addition, several Law Group members attended the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, where they lobbied for stronger human rights mechanisms, including the creation of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and an increased sensitivity to gender issues and gender-specific human rights violations.

The Law Group attended, in New York, sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (Social Summit) (March 1995, Copenhagen). At those sessions, and at the Social Summit itself, the Law Group promoted the concept of an integrated economic, social and cultural rights framework.

Finally, Law Group staff attended preparatory meetings in Jakarta, Dakar and Vienna for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Following the preparatory meetings, the Law Group sent a five-person delegation to the Conference in Beijing in September 1995, where the Law Group supported a strong human rights framework in the Platform for Action.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and specialized agencies (not applicable)

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

The Law Group has sought to implement, through direct advocacy at the Commission on Human Rights, and the General Assembly and before the various United Nations treaty bodies, United Nations resolutions relating to human rights, particularly the human rights of women.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

In November 1994, Law Group staff participated in an expert seminar in New York that was organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat on institutional arrangements for follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Law Group staff also participated in another expert seminar organized by the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in July 1995 at the Centre.

Additionally, Law Group staff have cooperated with or submitted evidence to numerous special rapporteurs or special representatives, including, for example, the special rapporteurs or representative on torture, violence against women, Burma (Myanmar), Guatemala, Haiti, Zaire, and summary or arbitrary executions, and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Preparation of papers and/or other materials

The Law Group recently prepared a study, in cooperation with the American Society for International Law, on internally displaced persons and international law at the request of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Dr. Francis Deng. The study was prepared in October 1995. Based in part on this study, the representative of the Secretary-General issued a compilation and analysis of legal norms relating to internally displaced populations (E/CN.4/1996/52/Add.2) in December 1995.

Field-level collaboration

The Law Group has collaborated with the United Nations in its work in Cambodia, where the Law Group's Human Rights Task Force has helped to establish a coalition of credible human rights groups. In particular, the Law Group has worked with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia to provide him with additional information on gender-specific human rights concerns in the region.

Notes

General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

21. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

(Special consultative status)

Teaching and training

Military courses

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) regularly organizes courses in San Remo, Italy, on the law of armed conflicts for officers of national armed forces with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross. These two-week courses aim at promoting a wider awareness in the armed forces of international humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflict situations to ensure a higher level of respect and compliance with such rules. Human rights in conflict situations and the special role of United Nations peacekeeping forces are also dealt with. Four military courses took place each year in 1992 and 1993, and five courses in 1994 and 1995 in the English, French and Spanish languages, with a global participation of 577 senior officers from 113 countries.

Courses on international refugee law

The courses on international refugee law, organized with the support and under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), are designed for government officials and non-governmental organization personnel with specific responsibilities for the problems of refugees and asylum-seekers. One course was organized each year in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 with a total number of 166 participants from 73 countries.

Courses on human rights and the administration of justice

The third Training Course on the Implementation of Human Rights and the Administration of Justice was organized in March 1992 in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and had a qualified attendance of judges, legal advisers and top-level government officials from English-speaking African countries, together with representatives of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies and the Arab Institute for Human Rights. Twenty-one participants attended the course.

Conferences, seminars and meetings of experts

Seminars on asylum, aliens and refugees

This series of seminars was continued in 1994. A meeting with more than 30 experts was organized by the Institute in cooperation with the delegation of UNHCR in Rome and with the support of the Italian Ministry of the Interior. The seminar encouraged deeper discussion of the problems concerning asylum, aliens and refugees in Italy.

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Seminars of Arab experts on asylum and refugee law

After the first seminar held in San Remo in 1984, IIHL continued to organize seminars for Arab experts on asylum and refugee law under the auspices of UNHCR. The fourth seminar of experts on asylum and refugee law in the Arab world took place in Cairo from 19 to 22 October 1992.

Annual round-table meetings on international humanitarian law

Through the years, IIHL has affirmed its reputation as providing as an independent setting in which experts from Governments, international organizations and humanitarian institutions and individual experts might meet at annual round-table discussions and have an informal dialogue on current problems of international humanitarian law. The main topics in the agenda of recent round-table meetings were the evolution of the right to assistance (1992); (a) role of the competent United Nations bodies in the implementation of international humanitarian law; (b) protection of the civilian populations of States that are under embargo measures; (c) implementation of international mechanisms for war crimes: creation of an international jurisdiction (1993); conflict prevention from a humanitarian perspective (1994). In 1995, the Institute celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary by organizing an international congress on the subject "United for the Respect of Humanitarian Law".

Seminars East-West Europe on humanitarian issues

The seminars, initiated in 1984 with the idea of bringing together experts from European socialist countries to discuss specific humanitarian problems, have developed, after the fundamental political changes in recent years, into a privileged forum where experts from Eastern and Western Europe exchange and compare their views and proposals on major issues relating to human rights, humanitarian law and refugee law in the contemporary world. Recent seminars were organized in Prague (1993), in Sofia (1994) and in Warsaw (1995).

Meetings of experts on the law of naval warfare

Since 1987, the Institute has been engaged in research work to promote a substantial reformulation of the existing law of war at sea in the light of recent developments in international humanitarian law as well as in modern warfare conditions and technology. Meetings were organized in Ottawa (1992) and in Geneva (1993). The final meeting took place in Livorno (1994) where the "San Remo Manual of International Law Applicable to Armed Conflict at Sea" was adopted by the group of military and civilian experts. In 1995, the Manual with a detailed explanation was published by Cambridge University Press.

Other meetings of experts

These included:

(a) Working Group on Prevention, under the auspices of UNHCR, San Remo, June 1992;

(b) Meeting of experts on conflict prevention, in cooperation with International Peace Academy, New York, April 1994;

(c) Workshop on international law and nationality laws in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Divonne-les-Bains, France, April 1994.

Publications

These include:

(a) Yearbook 1989-1990 (1992), Giuffré Editore;

(b) Collection of Publications, No. 11, Current Problems of IHL, (IIHL, 1993);

(c) Humanitarian Dialogue, a quarterly newsletter, from January 1994;

(d) Proceedings of the round-table meetings;

(e) San Remo Manual of International Law Applicable to Armed Conflict at Sea (Cambridge University Press, 1995);

(f) Visit, Search, Diversion and Capture: The Effect of the United Nations Charter on the Law of Naval Warfare (Bochum, 1995);

(g) Regions of Operations of Naval Warfare (Bochum, 1995).

22. INTERNATIONAL KOLPING SOCIETY

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

The International Kolping Society is a democratic, social and family-like organization of Catholics which is active in 52 countries of the world. The organization was founded in 1848 to provide an answer to the social questions of the last century. It is still active in all spheres where people suffer from social pressure and injustice. The International Kolping Society's principal aim is to enable its members to become responsible fathers and mothers, qualified workers and committed citizens. Within the last four years, the International Kolping Society has grown especially in different countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

The International Kolping Society realized that it is necessary to share experiences with other non-governmental organizations if it wants to improve its activities oriented in the direction of the United Nations.

The International Kolping Society therefore joined:

(a) The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) in 1991;

(b) NGO Committee on the Family in 1991;

(c) NGO Committee on Sustainable Development in 1995.

Participation in the World Summit for Social Development

(Copenhagen, 1995)

Two representatives of the International Kolping Society participated in the World Summit for Social Development and also attended a meeting with Mr. Norbert Blüm, the head of the German delegation. They also contacted other officials from national delegations and presented a written statement by the International Kolping Society. This statement demands the creation of new jobs adequate to the needs of the people, calls for more credit schemes for small-scale industries and demands more activities in the field of vocational training to overcome unemployment.

Other Social Summit-related activities

In preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, the International Kolping Society asked several national Kolping organizations to participate in national non-governmental organization networks. These non-governmental organizations networks discussed preparatory documentation for the Social Summit and made suggestions for changes. The International Kolping Society itself co-worked on the drafting of, and later signed, the following documents:

(a) Statement of international non-governmental organizations on family and social development;

(b) The Quality Benchmark for the Social Summit: a non-governmental organization statement for the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development in September 1994.

International Year of the Family (1994)

In addition to preparing for and attending the World Summit for Social Development, the International Kolping Society has put emphasis on the preparation, realization and implementation of the International Year of the Family (IYF) within the last four years. Being a member of the NGO Committee on the Family, the International Kolping Society attended the World NGO Forum on promoting families for the well-being of individuals and societies which took place at Malta from 28 November to 2 December 1993. At this NGO Forum, the International Kolping Society was designated IYF Patron for exemplary support to the United Nations programme on the International Year of the Family. This designation honoured the activities realized by the approximately 4,000 local Kolping groups. Most of these groups had organized seminars and meetings in connection with the International Year of the Family and initiated special programmes to support the family.

Furthermore, the International Kolping Society participated in the drafting of several documents by non-governmental organization networks. It signed the following documents:

(a) Statement of international non-governmental organizations on the International Year of the Family, 1994 (Vienna, 8 November 1995);

(b) Malta Statement of the World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family, IYF 1994 (A/48/712, annex, appendix), submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

(c) Statement of international non-governmental organizations on agenda item 4: Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action, IYF (Vienna, 10 April 1995).

Minorities

Since the International Kolping Society is confronted with the problem of minorities in various countries, it is very much interested in a definition of minorities and in their protection. For this reason, the International Kolping Society is actively involved in the discussions of the European Council on a convention on minorities. The International Kolping Society presented comments on the discussion over minorities at the level of the United Nations through a resolution published on 16 September 1992. In its resolution, the International Kolping Society demanded that the term "minorities" be defined and claimed that special protection provisions and rights had to be laid down internationally for minorities as groups. In particular, the International Kolping Society asked

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for the group right of political co-determination in all relevant issues concerning the shaping of human coexistence.

On 20 November 1989, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/25 adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child and published a document that stressed the significance of the family for the protection of children's rights (published 28 September 1994). The International Kolping Society participated in the following discussions in Geneva. It presented a document that stressed in a special way the significance of the family for the protection of children's rights.

23. INTERNATIONAL ROAD SAFETY ORGANISATION

(Special consultative status)

Introductory statement

The International Road Safety Organisation (PRI) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1959 to promote cooperation among national institutions dealing with road safety. The organization counts members in some 50 countries worldwide. The seat of the organization is in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The aims of the organization are:

(a) To promote traffic safety at an international level;

(b) To encourage efficient action to improve road traffic prevention notably in the fields of education, information and research.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (Geneva)

The organization's representative participated in the regular biannual meetings of the road safety working group WP1 in the years 1992-1995 (March and October 1992; March and October 1993; April and October 1994; March and October 1995), as well as to the workshop on road safety organized in Benesov, Czechia, from 5 to 9 October 1992; the seminar on young and novice drivers concerning "ways and activities to improve their driving ability and safety" in Tel Aviv, from 10 to 12 October 1993; the second ECE road safety week on "young road users" from 27 March to 2 April 1995. The organization participated in the event with an international poster exhibition.

United Nations Office at Vienna

The organization's representatives participated in the NGO Committees on the Disabled, Ageing, Youth, Drugs and the Family until mid-1993 when the Committees on Youth and Ageing were transferred to New York. The importance of the organization's being represented at the United Nations is enhanced by the fact that all population groups represented in these committees are problem groups as far as road safety is concerned. Through the cooperation between the United Nations and the organization, the promotion of preventive measures against increasing road accident figures is considered on a largely international level, thus partly meeting the aims of the organization, and both organizations have benefited from this common work.

Actions

The organization undertook a worldwide action to promote road safety and to reduce the risk exposure of young drivers and young road users in 1993 (official launch: 10 March 1993), with the participation of over 20 countries. The

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organization feels that this initiative encouraged ECE to hold the above-cited events.

Congresses, seminars

The aim of holding congresses, workshops and seminars in different parts of the world is mainly to encourage authorities in world regions to understand the scope of traffic accidents and to liberate necessary support and funding for traffic safety action in those particular regions.

The organization held two world congresses, in Istanbul from 12 to 14 May 1992 and in Capetown, from 3 to 6 October 1994.

The organization held an international workshop on young drivers and young road users in Lisbon, on 27 and 28 May 1993, and an international seminar entitled "The Nordic Approach to Road Safety" in Reykjavik, on 30 May 1995.

Cooperation with other international bodies

The organization joined the European Road Safety Federation, a non-governmental organization that works in close liaison with the European Commission of the European Union. Within this cooperative framework, the organization submitted reports in 1995 on:

(a) A feasibility study regarding the implementation of a European documentation centre on road safety campaigns and communication;

(b) Education of mopedists.

In 1995, surveys were made on traffic safety education in primary schools; traffic safety education in secondary schools will be part of reports to be submitted in 1996, as well as preparation for a European seminar entitled "Young Europeans in Search of Solutions", to be held early in 1996.

The organization had regular contacts with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, the World Health Organization, the Forum of European Highway Research Laboratories, the Forum of European Road Safety Research Institutes and so on. Contacts were developed with the European Federation of Road Traffic Accident Victims.

Cooperation with members

The organization had regular contacts with its members, mainly national road safety organizations in some 50 countries worldwide.

New memberships were gained in Latin America (the Ministry of the Interior in Argentina, and the Associaçao Brasileira dos Departamentos de Transito in Brazil); in Eastern Europe (the International Road Traffic Organization, an

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intergovernmental organization that counts the successor States of 12 former Soviet republics as members: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

Contacts could be developed in Australia, Africa and the Middle East.

Contacts with ECE

Contacts were kept on a regular basis with the Director of the Transport Division of ECE, Mr. Capel Ferrer, and with the Executive Secretary of ECE, Mr. Yves Berthelot, as well as with Mr. Walawski of the Transport Division.

Publications

The publications of the organization comprise an international journal, Revue, with three issues per year dealing with topical road traffic safety subjects as well as proceedings of world congresses, seminars and workshops. All publications of the organization are in the three official languages: English, French and German.

24. INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION (ISSA)

(General consultative status)

The membership of the International Social Association (ISSA) comprises organizations responsible for the administration of social security schemes or whose aims are compatible with those of the Association. It currently unites 342 member organizations in 127 countries. The aim of the Association is to protect, promote and develop social security throughout the world. The Association shares fully the ideals of justice and social progress laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

ISSA is regularly represented at the sessions of the Commission for Social Development, and maintains continuous contact with the United Nations Secretariat, in particular through its permanent representatives at the United Nations Office at Geneva, at Headquarters in New York and at the United Nations Office at Vienna. The main examples of cooperation between ISSA and the United Nations during the period 1992-1995 are as follows.

Cooperation in United Nations conferences and other meetings

ISSA took part in the European regional preparatory meeting (Geneva, March 1993) for the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993), the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council on the World Summit for Social Development (Geneva, June 1993), the meeting on the crisis of social development in the 1990s: preparing for the World Summit (Geneva, July 1993), the Expert Group Meeting on Intersectoral Cooperation in Reaching Selected Targets on Ageing (Budapest, July 1993), the regional seminar on adopting guidelines for the establishment and development of national coordinating committees on disability or similar bodies in Eastern Europe and the Baltic States (Sinaia, September 1993), the meeting on social development: a new definition for security (New York, September 1993), the non-governmental organization preparatory meeting for the World Summit for Social Development (Geneva, September 1993), the World NGO Forum on Launching the International Year of the Family (Valletta, November-December 1993), the Expert Group Meeting on the impact of economic and social changes in the African family (Addis Ababa, December 1993), Working Group MD 10 (Vienna, September 1994), the International Conference: Today's families - A Bridge to the Future (Montreal, October 1994), the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development (Manila, October 1994), the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995), and the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (Beijing, September 1995). ISSA also participated in the annual meetings of the Board of Directors of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna.

Implementation of United Nations resolutions

ISSA has been involved in consultations organized among the various bodies of the United Nations system in order to implement the General Assembly resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989 on the International Year of the Family, as regards resources and responsibilities in a changing world, and taken part in the international activities linked with the IYF. An important contribution of ISSA to the IYF was a special issue of the International Social Security Review (Nos. 3-4/1994), which was entirely devoted to questions of social security protection and the family. (This issue was distributed to the non-governmental organizations in Geneva and Vienna dealing with family and women's issues and was forwarded to the Secretariat.) ISSA has also participated in the implementation of international action plans for women, as well as older persons.

Dissemination of information on the activities of the United Nations

The International Social Security Review, which ISSA publishes quarterly in four languages (English, French, German and Spanish), is the main medium used by the Association in order to disseminate information about the work of the United Nations in the social field to all of its member organizations and to the wider public concerned with progress in social protection, that forms part of the Review's readership. The Review reports on United Nations activities in its "Diary" section and has devoted detailed articles to its conferences and meetings relating to social affairs. (Some issues of the International Social Security Review were forwarded to the Secretariat.)

Cooperation with the specialized agencies

ISSA and the International Labour Organization (ILO) maintain privileged relationships that are an expression of the common objectives of the two organizations and the way in which their activities in the field of social security are complementary. Over the period under review, ISSA has continued to be represented regularly at the yearly sessions of the International Labour Conferences of ILO, and meetings dealing with social security while numerous ISSA meetings have benefited from the effective participation of representatives of the International Labour Office. Cooperation between ISSA and the World Health Organization, which reflects their common interests, was continued during the period 1992-1995.

ISSA has continued its efforts to maintain its cooperation in United Nations activities in terms of the future. In this context, the Association has taken careful note of resolutions of the General Assembly on future international social actions, in particular the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons in 1999.

25. INTERNATIONAL TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION

(Special consultative status)

Organization

Recall of the Association's aims

The aims of the International Tunnelling Association (ITA) are to encourage planning in the use of the subsurface and to promote advances in the preparatory investigations for subsurface constructions and in the design, construction and maintenance of such buildings, by bringing together information thereon and by studying questions related thereto. The Association fulfils its mission by interchange of information among its several adhering national organizations (for example, exchange of knowledge between highly industrialized and developing countries) by holding executive, public or other meetings at intervals, by organizing and coordinating studies and experiments, by publishing proceedings, reports and documents.

Evolution of the geographical representation since 1992

The number of 'member nations' has increased from 38 to 42: new members include Greece, Turkey, Romania, Croatia (resignation of Yugoslavia), the Russian Federation (resignation of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)), the Czech Republic and Slovakia (resignation of Czechoslovakia).

The number of 'affiliate members' has increased from 167 (76 corporate and 91 individual members) to 206 (81 corporate and 125 individual members); 10 countries or regions not yet member nations are represented by affiliate members: Saudi Arabia, Costa Rica,Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, Nepal, Peru, Singapore and Taiwan Province of China.

Participation in the meetings of United Nations bodies

ITA participated in the annual Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat/non-governmental organization (DPI/NGO) conference in New York in September 1995.

Cooperation with United Nations organizations

ITA organized and conducted a one-day working session with Mr. Osmond Gueye and his staff from the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, Dr. Celik from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and other United Nations officials to identify the best ways ITA could assist the United Nations in reaching its goals.

Economic and Social Council

ITA provided support to the actions of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and support to the actions for promoting the underground alternative of the Strait of Gibraltar crossing. It organized in 1994 in Cairo the ECE-ECA-ITA joint seminar, with acknowledgement of ITA's actions, especially by ECE.

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

ITA was an accredited non-governmental organization with Habitat II and met frequently with Dr. Aliye Celik to coordinate ITA assistance to Habitat II. ITA contributed the article "Going Underground: A viable alternative" which was published in the Habitat II Newsletter, No. 5, November 1995. ITA also prepared two draft position papers for the UN: (a) "Towards a Sustainable Urban Development Thanks to the Rise of Underground Space" and (b) "What is ITA's Contribution to Habitat II?" for the use of Habitat II. Dr. Aliye Celik will deliver the keynote lecture to NAT'96, the host conference for ITA's 1996 annual meeting.

Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat

At the request of the Department for Development Support and Management Services, ITA informed all member nations that the United Nations required a tunnel expert for extended work in Saudi Arabia and in India.

Technology transfer

Sponsorship and participation in international congresses

ITA sponsored and participated in the following congresses in:

(a) Netherlands, April 1993, on "Options for Tunnelling";

(b) Egypt, April 1994, on "Tunnelling and Ground Conditions";

(c) Germany, May 1995, on "World Tunnel";

(d) United States of America, April 1996, on "Tunnelling, Underground Space and Sustainable Development".

These congresses attracted between 600 and 1,600 international participants.

Sponsorship and participation in workshops

ITA sponsored and participated in the following workshops:

(a) Rio de Janeiro (December 1992): Advantages and inconveniences of urban subsurface use;

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(b) Moscow (June 1993): Project methods for the construction of underground structures;

(c) Copenhagen (November 1993): Tunnels bored under water;

(d) Iasy, Romania (October 1993): Underground constructions in Romania: realizations and perspectives;

(e) Budapest (January 1994): Discussion among the representatives from Central European countries on financing issues for underground structures;

(f) Gjovik, Norway (June 1994): Underground openings for public use;

(g) Cracow (September 1994): Underground structures;

(h) Praha (November 1994): Underground construction in cities;

(i) Brussels (November 1994): Development in the technique of large-diameter shields;

(j) Bangkok (January 1995): Development of underground works in South-East Asia;

(k) New Delhi (March 1995): Contractual practices;

(l) Innsbruck, Austria (June 1995): Use of shotcrete underground;

(m) Paris (September 1995): Underground urban and space planning;

(n) Seoul (October 1995): Development of underground works in the Republic of Korea;

(o) Poprad, Slovakia (October 1995): Road tunnels;

(p) Moscow (November 1995): Long tunnels under sea.

The workshops gathered between 150 and 450 participants.

Working groups

ITA always has about 10 working groups in operation. The current groups are in the areas of Research, Contractual Sharing of Risks, Subsurface Planning, Health and Safety in Works, Maintenance and Repair of Underground Structures, Design of Underground Waste Repositories, Immersed and Floating Tunnels, Shotcrete Use, Direct and Indirect Advantages of Underground Structures, Mechanized Tunnelling.

An eleventh Group, on "Underground Works and Environment", has started activities.

The groups meet at least once a year and work also by correspondence.

Training

ITA prepared a syllabus for future training workshops for the United Nations.

Preparation and publishing of recommended international standards for the tunnelling industry

The following recommendations have been prepared and disseminated since 1992: Recommendations on Contractual Practices in Underground Works; Guidelines for a Good Practice; Non-destructive Monitoring Method for Linings; Design of Underground Structures for Non-nuclear Waste Repositories; State-of-the-art on Immersed and Floating Tunnels; Use of Shotcrete in Underground Works; Evaluation of the Advantages of Subsurface Use and Application to the Case of Underground Car Parks.

Tunnelling and Underground Space Technology (T & UST), the official journal of ITA

Sixteen issues have been published since 1992.

The present report has been approved by the 1996 General Assembly and is formally submitted by the President.

26. INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

(Special consultative status)

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) is an international organization representing approximately 130,000 Inuit living in the Arctic regions of Alaska, the United States of America, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka, Russian Federation. ICC is governed at the international level by an Executive Council composed of a Vice-President and Executive Council Member from each of the four country regions and an international President elected by the ICC General Assembly at meetings held every three years. There is an ICC regional office in each of the four member countries. In 1992, the membership of ICC was expanded by the inclusion of Inuit living in the Chukotka region of the Russian Federation (also known as Yupik or Yupighit), who number approximately 1,500 people.

The principal goals of ICC are to strengthen unity among Inuit of the northern circumpolar region; to promote Inuit rights and interests at the international level; to develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment; and to seek full and active partnership in the political, economic and social development of circumpolar regions.

Throughout the reporting period 1992-1995, ICC participated actively in the meetings and work of numerous United Nations bodies, conferences and programmes relating to environmental protection and sustainable development issues as well as indigenous human rights issues. ICC played an active role at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro and, among other accomplishments, secured recognition of the value of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge in sustainable development. Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ICC attended the United Nations Technical Conference on Practical Experience in the Realization of Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Self-Development of Indigenous Peoples, in Santiago, Chile, 18-22 May 1992, and submitted a paper to the Technical Conference entitled "Inuit ecological and environmental knowledge" (HR/STGO/1992/SEM/BP.12). Mr. Ingmar Egede of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference acted as Rapporteur at the Technical Conference. As further follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ICC conducted a comprehensive review of Agenda 21,[1] in a report entitled "Analysis of Agenda 21 from a Circumpolar Inuit Perspective". A draft of this report was presented to delegates to the 1995 ICC General Assembly and a final version of the report is now ready for publication.

ICC made oral and written statements to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in 1993 and 1994. At the forty-ninth session of the Commission, ICC spoke on agenda item 25: the World Conference on Human Rights, agenda item 28: Commemoration of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, and agenda item 19: Report of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. At the fiftieth session of the Commission, the ICC delegate spoke on agenda item 19: Advisory services in the field of human rights. With respect to the fifty-first session

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of the Commission, the ICC delegate attended during the week of 21 February and made a statement on agenda item 11: Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission.

ICC was very active in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights leading up to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Conference on Human Rights, held from 19 to 23 January 1993 in Costa Rica, and the World Conference on Human Rights itself. ICC made oral and written submissions at each of these meetings. Those submissions promoted a permanent United Nations forum for indigenous peoples, and recognition of the equal rights of indigenous peoples including their right to self-determination and explained the collective and individual aspects of fundamental human rights.

During the reporting period, ICC participated in several other United Nations activities including the 6-10 September 1993 United Nations-sponsored consultation on Siberian indigenous peoples reported on in "International Consultation on the Situation of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic and Siberian Regions", the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Pilgrimage for Peace, the opening ceremonies to launch the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (December 1994), and United Nations round-table discussions on indigenous-to-indigenous trade and development (and began a review of United Nations programmes in this field), and attended the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and, from 20 to 24 November 1995, the first session of the Working Group established, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995, to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, considering the draft agreed upon by the members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at its eleventh session (see document E/CN.4/1995/119).

Notes

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

27. LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

Since 1978, the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights has worked to promote and protect fundamental human rights. Its work is impartial, holding each Government to the standards affirmed in the International Bill of Human Rights. The Lawyers' Committee conducts fact-finding missions and publishes reports that serve as a starting point for sustained follow-up work within three areas. One involving locally based human rights lawyers and activists; another involving policy makers involved in formulating United States foreign policy; and the third with international organizations such as the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity and the World Bank. The Committee provides pro bono (no-charge) legal representation to indigent refugees in the United States of America who are in flight from political persecution.

Activities in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

In the period under review, representatives of the Lawyers' Committee regularly attended the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights as well as its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and submitted a number of written and oral statements to these bodies. The statements were mainly submitted under agenda items relating to the administration of justice, human rights violations worldwide, the protection of human rights defenders and advisory services. On a regular basis, the Lawyers' Committee provided information to the procedures established by the Commission on Human Rights, in particular to the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and several country-related special rapporteurs, as well as special representatives and independent experts as appointed by the Secretary-General. The submissions to these procedures included information on human rights situations worldwide (through its Critique of the United States Department of State Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices) as well as specific cases of human rights violations (through its Advocacy Alert and its Lawyer-to-Lawyer initiative). The Lawyers' Committee representative attended several sessions of the Working Group on the Right and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and advocated the speedy completion of the United Nations declaration aimed at protecting and strengthening the work of human rights defenders worldwide. Two representatives of the Lawyers' Committee attended the sessions of the Economic and Social Council Open-Ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations.

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies

The Lawyers' Committee cooperated with a wide range of other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies such as the United Nations treaty bodies, the General Assembly, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, the United Nations peacekeeping missions and peacekeeping-related departments within the United Nations Secretariat.

The Lawyers' Committee regularly submitted information to the United Nations treaty bodies on the human rights situation in countries under review by these bodies (in particular the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture). On a number of occasions, the Lawyers' Committee submitted detailed reports commenting on State compliance reports and held briefings for the independent experts. The representatives of the Lawyers' Committee attended several meetings of the treaty bodies, both in New York and in Geneva.

In 1993, a representative of the Lawyers' Committee attended a session of the Preparatory Committee for the second World Conference on Human Rights in Costa Rica. During the World Conference in Vienna, the Lawyers' Committee, represented by the Executive Director and seven staff members, organized a panel discussion on the ability of non-governmental organizations to operate freely. Three papers were submitted to the Conference, entitled as follows: "The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: The Case for U.S. Ratification", "The Establishment of the Right of Non-Governmental Groups to Operate", and "Human Rights, Development and International Financial Institutions".

The Lawyers' Committee attaches great importance to the work of the International Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia, as well as the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda. The Committee published several papers on the work of the International Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia: "International Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia: Establishment, Proceedings to Date and Jurisdiction", "International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia: Preliminary Observations on the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations", and "Prosecuting War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia: A Guide to Applicable International Law, National Legislation and its Relation to International Human Rights Standards". The Lawyers' Committee sought information from Governments on their collaboration with the two ad hoc tribunals and kept the tribunals updated on adopted national legislation establishing formal cooperation.

Besides cooperating with and promoting the work of the ad hoc tribunals, the Lawyers' Committee strongly supports the creation of an effective and fair International Criminal Court, with independent powers to prosecute and try

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suspects of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Lawyers' Committee representatives closely followed the discussions in the General Assembly and its Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

In discussions with the World Bank, the Lawyers' Committee seeks to emphasize the relevance of international human rights law, including United Nations human rights treaties, to the achievement of the Bank's aims and objectives. The Lawyers' Committee released a report that examined the consideration by the World Bank of human rights concerns, and emphasized in particular the recognition that the Bank has given to the relevance of "good governance" and "participation" to the effectiveness of development activities. The Lawyers' Committee also reported upon the effects of human rights violations on the success of Bank-supported development projects.

The Lawyers' Committee published reports evaluating the human rights components of United Nations peacekeeping missions in Haiti and El Salvador in the belief that valuable lessons could be learned by carefully studying and analysing concrete examples. These studies have been conceived in part as means of creating an "institutional memory" within the United Nations that will enhance the design and performance of subsequent human rights monitoring missions.

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28. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) is a non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit association representing women doctors from all five continents. The aims of MWIA are:

(a) To encourage communication between women doctors worldwide;

(b) To encourage the entry of women into the medical and allied services;

(c) To assist medical women with postgraduate studies;

(d) To overcome discrimination between male and female physicians;

(e) To promote health for all throughout the world with particular emphasis on women, health and development.

During the quadrennial period under review, three new national associations joined MWIA: those of Cameroon (1992), Zambia (1995) and Benin (1995). The Association's membership comprises 45 national associations and 55 individual members in 28 countries. The total number of members in 73 countries is approximately 19,000 (1995).

Participation in United Nations meetings, 1992-1995

MWIA participated regularly in meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings. Of special interest to MWIA were United Nations Conferences, sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Commission on Human Rights and meetings of bodies of the World Health Organization (WHO). The main meetings attended were:

(a) Economic and Social Council:

1993: Geneva, 28 June-30 July;

(b) Commission on the Status of Women:

(i) 1992:

- a. Thirty-sixth session, Vienna, 11-20 March;
- b. NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva, 22 June;
- c. Preparatory meeting for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, Geneva, 23 September;

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d. NGO information session, Geneva, 25 September;

(ii) 1993:

a. NGO Consultation on Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Vienna, 15-16 March;

b. Thirty-seventh session, Vienna, 17-26 March;

c. Eighth meeting of the Asian and Pacific NGO Working Group, Bangkok, 16 October;

d. Asia Pacific Regional Symposium of NGOs on Women in Development, Manila, 16-20 November;

e. Subcommittee Working Group Forum '95, Geneva, 9 December;

(iii) 1994:

a. Asia and Pacific NGO Working Group, ninth meeting, Bangkok, 17-18 February;

b. NGO Planning Committee for 1995, New York, 4-7 March;

c. Preparatory meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 7-18 March;

d. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) preparatory committee and parallel NGO Forum, Vienna, 17-21 October;

e. PrepCom for the Fourth World Conference and NGO Forum, Dakar, November;

f. Asia-Pacific NGO Working Group. All meetings held in Bangkok in 1994 and 1995;

(iv) 1995: NGO Consultation and Preparatory Forum, New York, 15 March-4 April;

(c) Commission on Human Rights (Geneva):

1992:

a. Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, 30 March-10 April;

b. NGO Committee on Human Rights, 25 June;

c. NGO Information Meeting, 21 August and 7 September;

d. Meeting on Racism, 29 and 30 August;

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(d) United Nations conferences:

(i) 1992:

a. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, NGO Preparatory Committee, Geneva, 18-24 August;

b. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June;

(ii) 1993: World Conference on Human Rights and parallel NGO Forum, June, Vienna;

(iii) 1994: International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, September;

(iv) 1995:

a. World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, March;

b. Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September;

(v) MWIA has permanent representatives in New York, Vienna and Geneva who regularly attend meetings at United Nations Headquarters (for example, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF));

(e) World Health Organization (WHO):

During the period 1992-1995, MWIA was represented at 39 meetings of WHO sessions of the Executive Board, the World Health Assemblies and WHO regional meetings (Americas, South-East Asia, Europe, Africa and the Western Pacific).

MWIA presented/sent 10 written statements at various important meetings. The recipient or meeting concerned, venue and a short reference to the subject of the statement are described as follows:

(a) Sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, February 1993: "Inhuman treatment of women and children in regional conflicts all over the world";

(b) Presented to the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, June 1993: "Health for All Women - A Basic Human Right";

(c) Presented at the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, June 1993: "Human Rights for Adolescents";

(d) Presented at the preparatory meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March 1994: "Women's Health Status";

(e) Presented at the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, September 1994: "Necessity of Family Planning Information, Counselling and Services";

(f) Presented at the Nordic Forum, Turku, August 1994, and the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, September 1994: "Female Genital Mutilation and Other Harmful Traditional Practices";

(g) Presented at the ECE NGO Forum and Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Vienna, October 1994: "Adolescent Health";

(h) Presented at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March 1995: "Women's Health";

(i) Presented at the forty-fifth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Jerusalem, September 1995: "Reproductive Health: Violence against Women as a Major Health Issue";

(j) Presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995: "Nutrition - Quality of Health Care - Violence as a Health Issue".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies, 1992-1995

MWIA and its affiliates are very active on international and national levels. A few examples of activities in cooperation with United Nations bodies are presented as follows:

(a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): the Association of Uganda Medical Doctors undertook a two-year pilot project on Health Education of Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) Prevention. Four hundred fifty men and women were trained on this subject and a District AIDS Committee was formed. UNDP has agreed to fund the Association in five further districts;

(b) UNICEF/WHO:

(i) The Egyptian Medical Women's Association participated in governmental activities and cooperated with WHO and UNICEF in projects concerning Health Education of Community Leaders (WHO), Safe Motherhood (UNICEF) and AIDS (UNICEF);

(ii) The South African Society of Medical Women was involved in projects in the fields of "The Rights of Children", "The Expanded Programme on Immunization", "Smoking Policies", "The Aged" and so on. These projects included cooperation with the Government, WHO and UNICEF;

(c) MWIA helps to sponsor an International Planned Parenthood Federation project in South Africa;

(d) At the NGO Forum in Beijing, September 1995, MWIA held a workshop entitled "Women's Health in a Changing Society". The main topics of discussion were nutrition and women's health, violence as a health issue and access to high-quality medicine.

MWIA publications

A triennial congress report is published after each MWIA international congress. That report contains detailed information on activities of the national associations, international United Nations representation, resolutions passed at the congress and so forth. Regular information on United Nations activities and news of interest to medical women are published in the MWIA circular letter which, sometimes, is the only source of information for many MWIA members living in countries of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia (for example, Uzbekistan, the Baltic countries, Croatia).

Subscriptions

MWIA subscribes annually to the following associations: the NGO Special Committee on Human Rights, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, the NGO Committee on UNICEF, the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, the Committee on the United Nations Decade of Women, the NGO Committee on the Family.

29. MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN'S STUDIES INSTITUTE

(Special consultative status)

The Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre (KEGME) was founded in October 1982 and is based in Athens, Greece.

KEGME is a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, a member of the Board of the European Network of Scientific and Technical Cooperation on Women's Studies (ENWS) of the Council of Europe, a member of the Greek National Platform of non-governmental organizations for development in the European Union (EU), and a member of the Mediterranean Women's Forum under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Institute is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors. Ketty Lazaris is the elected President of the Board. A Scientific Committee is composed of representatives of women's non-governmental organizations from various Mediterranean countries. A wide network of women scientists and researchers closely cooperate in the activities of the Institute.

Aims

Aims of KEGME are:

(a) To study, analyse and improve the position of women in the family and in economic, social and public life;

(b) To increase awareness and stimulate action that will promote equality between women and men in all areas of life;

(c) To sensitize women about ecological problems and mobilize them to protect the environment and save the Mediterranean basin from pollution;

(d) To assist women in preserving their cultural heritage and their women's values;

(e) To develop methods and take initiatives in conflict resolution and in the promotion of peace, in the Mediterranean;

(f) To support national, regional and international campaigns and programmes about issues of major concern such as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), drugs, alcoholism, and so on.

To achieve its objectives, KEGME has developed various areas of responsibilities, for example:

(a) Feminist and action-oriented research;

(b) Gender studies programme;

(c) Organization of seminars, symposia, workshops, conferences, on a wide number of issues related to women;

(d) Programme of feminist alternatives for the promotion of peace and security;

(e) Activities relating to the protection of the environment;

(f) Training projects for the promotion of human rights with emphasis on women's rights;

(g) A documentation and information unit.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

In the last four years, the Institute has been very active in many fields. Specifically in 1992 KEGME participated:

(a) At the international seminar "Migrant Women in the 1990s: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on New Trends and Issues", 26-29 January 1992, sponsored by UNESCO;

(b) At the NGO Consultation on the preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 9 and 10 March 1992, and the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Vienna, 11-20 March 1992;

(c) In the activities of the International Day Against Drug Abuse, organized by UNESCO, Paris, 26 June 1992;

(d) At the DPI/NGO Conference "Regional Conflicts: Threats to World Peace and Progress", 9-11 September 1992 in New York;

(e) At the first Mediterranean Women's Forum, 24-28 November 1992, sponsored by UNESCO, with a written presentation relating to women and friendly environmental enterprises;

(f) At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, 1992.

In 1993 KEGME participated:

(a) At the World NGO Forum launching the International Year of the Family 1994, Malta, 28 November-2 December 1993;

(b) In the NGO Forum and the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 10-12 June and 14-25 June 1993;

(c) At the NGO meeting in Geneva, 13 September 1993, for the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development;

(d) At the NGO consultations and the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Vienna, 17-26 March 1993.

In 1994 KEGME participated:

(a) At the NGO Forum of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, September 1994;

(b) In the United Nations Conference on "We the People Building Peace", New York, 20-22 September 1994;

(c) In the regional meeting for the Beijing International World Conference on Women, Vienna, 12-19 October 1994;

(d) In the General Conference of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, Geneva, 1-3 November 1994.

In 1995 KEGME:

(a) Took part in the NGO consultations for the preparation of the Beijing Conference in New York, 13-14 March 1995, and also attended as observer the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 15 March-4 April 1995;

(b) Took part in the NGO Forum and the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, March 1995;

(c) Co-organized the second Forum of Mediterranean Women, a preparatory meeting for Beijing in Tunis, 2-4 June 1995;

(d) Coordinated the Greek women's non-governmental organizations in their preparations for the Beijing Forum. Five KEGME members actively participated at the Beijing Forum, September 1995, where KEGME organized three workshops:

(i) "Mediterranean Women's Rights in a Multicultural Contact";

(ii) "The Women's Movement towards 2000: its Visions and Perspectives";

(iii) "Women and Development: an Alternative Model".

KEGME's President also participated in the National Delegation.

Other activities

Concerning research, KEGME has implemented studies from a feminist perspective on the following themes:

(a) "Drug consumption in secondary-school female students", sponsored by UNESCO, 1992;

(b) "Women's Perspectives on the Ethnical, Social and Legal Implications and Applications of the Human Genome Analysis", cross-national research 1992;

(c) "Women, Citizenship and European Community Law", transnational research sponsored by the Equal Opportunities Unit of EU, 1995.

Concerning gender studies, KEGME has organized an International Seminar sponsored by UNESCO, June 1993, on the theme "Gender Studies towards 2000".

Concerning the promotion of human rights, KEGME has implemented the following activities:

(a) 1992:

Conference on "The Rights of Immigrant and Refugee Women", Athens, November 1992;

(b) 1994:

"Monitoring and achieving women's equal rights", Training Seminar for Women of Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs), Bratislava, April 1994. The Seminar focused mainly on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international conventions;

(c) 1995-1996:

"Transition to Democracy in Russia: Promoting Women's Legal Rights", training seminar for Russian women in Moscow.

In the field of environment, KEGME has undertaken the following activities:

(a) 1992:

(i) "Women and Sustainable Development", seminar for rural women;

(ii) "Peace Boat", Women's International Meeting for the environment and security;

(b) 1995:

(i) "Women's Agrotouristic Enterprises", training programme for Bulgarian women in Sofia and Varna;

(ii) "Gender Approaches to Emergency Situations: Women's Realities", symposium under the auspices of the Greek Ministry for Environment, Athens, May 1995;

(iii) "We Live Together: Environment and Development, North-South Cooperation", sensitization programme targeting women and children aged 10-14.

Finally, KEGME has organized a series of day workshops on the themes "Women and drugs" and "Women and preventive medicine for gynaecological types of cancer".

As a follow-up to the Beijing Conference, KEGME has conducted a series of one-day workshops on the promotion and development of strategies for the promotion of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

KEGME has cooperated with UNESCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) for the implementation of various programmes. KEGME is in contact as well with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, Non-Governmental Organizations Section.

Notes

General Assembly resolution 34/180.

Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

30. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OIL COMPANIES (ARPEL)

(Special consultative status)

Introductory statement and purposes of the organization

Mutual Assistance of the Latin American Government Oil Companies (ARPEL) was created on 2 October 1965 at the Third Conference of Latin American Government Oil Companies in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The objective of ARPEL is to foster mutual collaboration and cooperation among its members in areas of common interest and benefits, as well as mutual assistance with a view to regional integration, to their business development, to the increase in their management efficiency, to environmental protection, to the progress of the Latin American oil industry in the world context and to the creation of an efficient framework of relations, and to open effective prospects for strengthening their common business and trade objectives.

At present (1996), ARPEL has a membership comprising 23 oil and gas companies, representative of Latin America, Europe and Asia. Since May 1995, the association has been open to all those oil companies that have direct investments in the Latin American region.

In June 1992, ARPEL became an Association member of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA). IPIECA is a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Costa Rican official delegation presented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 1992 on behalf of ARPEL, the Principles of Environmental Conduct. This document is a brief affirmation of ARPEL members that they will collectively and separately conduct their petroleum operations under principles reflecting the adequate use of the best environmental practices.

ARPEL participated in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America (NOAA) Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America (EPA), New Jersey SEA Grant Marine Advisory Service (SEA GRANT), International Maritime Organization (IMO) Second Marine Debris Workshop and co-sponsored the IOC/UNEP ARPEL/IMO/Joint IOC/UNEP Marine Pollution Research and Control Programme for the Wider Caribbean (CEPPOL) Oil and Marine Debris Evaluation Meeting in Merida, Mexico, 17-21 August 1992.

Four ARPEL Member Companies made presentations at the IMO/Industry Seminar on Oil Spill Contingency Planning held in Caracas, Venezuela, 24 and 25 October 1992.

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The first ARPEL/Operative Network for the Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities of South America, Mexico, Panama and Cuba (ROCRAM)/IMO/IPIECA meeting took place in Willemstad, Curaçao, 14 and 15 March 1994. The goals of the meeting included the potential role of petroleum companies operating in Latin America and that of IMO, while implementing the ARPEL-ROCRAM Cooperation Agreement on the Control of Oil Spills at a Regional Level.

ARPEL participated at the "International Conference on National Action to Mitigate Global Climate Change", sponsored by UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF), Copenhagen, Denmark, 7-9 June 1994.

ARPEL participated at the "Latin American Meeting on National Contingency Plans for Oil Spills and Chemicals Spills", sponsored by IMO, held at Guayaquil/Quito, Ecuador, 16-22 November 1994.

The Conference on "ARPEL/ROCRAM: Cooperation Between Maritime Authorities and Industry" was presented by ARPEL at the IMO/IPIECA special session of the "1995 International Oil Spill Conference" in Long Beach, California, United States, 27 February-2 March 1995.

Other relevant activities

Environmental training on topics related to Agenda 21[1] of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was given at the following workshops developed by ARPEL:

(a) "Oil Spill Contingency Planning" (San Jose, Costa Rica, 15-25 March 1993);

(b) "Control of the Urban Environmental Impact from Vehicle Emissions" (Villa de Leyva, Colombia, 13-16 April 1993);

(c) "Clean-up and Reclamation Related to Environmental Impacts from Oil Company Activities" (Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 4-8 October 1993);

(d) "Vulnerability of Petroleum Industry Facilities from Natural Disasters" (San Jose, Costa Rica, 30 November-4 December, 1993);

(e) "Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Petroleum Industry Activities" (Lima, Peru, 21-25 February 1994);

(f) "Environmental Regulations and Assessment in Offshore Oil and Gas Operations" (Montevideo, Uruguay, 4-6 May 1994).

Notes

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol.I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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31. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GERMAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

(Special consultative status)

Aims

The National Council of German Women's Organizations is the federation of women's associations in Germany. It represents 50 nationwide organizations with some 11 million members. The seat of the organization is Bonn. The aims of the Council are the realization of the equal status of women in all parts of society, promotion of democracy and international cooperation.

Activities

Activities comprised:

(a) Attendance at the Round Table for NGOs in Geneva, 21 October 1992, organized by the Chairperson of the Economic and Social Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. Oral statement in favour of placing the subject of women in the agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights;

(b) Attendance at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in Vienna, March 1992;

(c) Attendance by the President of the Council at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio, June 1992, as a member of the delegation of the German Government;

(d) Attendance at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 1993. The Council endorsed an oral statement of international non-governmental organizations under agenda item 6 urging Governments to hold a preparatory conference on women in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE);

(e) Attendance at the European Population Conference in Geneva, 23-26 March 1993. The Council endorsed an oral statement by international non-governmental organizations urging Governments to observe the principle of equality between men and women in all population matters;

(f) Attendance at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights in Geneva, April 1993;

(g) Attendance at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, June 1993. The Council in cooperation with Geneva-based international non-governmental organizations submitted a written statement on 'Human Rights of Women';

(h) Attendance at the annual session of ECE, April 1993 in Geneva. Together with international non-governmental organizations, the Council submitted an oral statement urging the Commission to convene a regional conference on women in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(i) Attendance at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development in New York, May 1993. The Council signed the written statement of the New York Working Group on Women's Health entitled 'Moving Forward for Women's Health II';

(j) Attendance at the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva, August 1993. The Council endorsed an oral statement of international non-governmental organizations on agenda item 11 (implementation of the human rights of women) and agenda item 16 (contemporary forms of slavery) with a working paper on the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime, submitted by Ms. Linda Chavez;

(k) Attendance at the Inter-Sessional Working Group of the Commission on the Status of Women as preparatory committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Council submitted a written statement on the draft platform for action (E/CN.6/WG/1994/NGO/1);

(l) Attendance at the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, January-March 1994. Together with international non-governmental organizations, the Council submitted an oral statement on agenda item 11 (a) (Human rights of women) and agenda item 19 (Advisory services);

(m) Attendance at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Together with international non-governmental organizations, the Council submitted a written statement on agenda item 5 (b) (Priority themes: development: women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) (E/CN.6/1994/NGO/5) and on agenda item 5 (c) (Priority themes: peace: measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society) (E/CN.6/1994/NGO/4). Furthermore, the Council endorsed an oral statement of international non-governmental organizations on agenda items 5 and 6 ('Women's Future: The Girl Child is the Key');

(n) Attendance at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development in New York, April 1994;

(o) Attendance at the annual session of the Economic Commission for Europe, April 1994 in Geneva. The Council endorsed an oral statement by international non-governmental organizations urging Governments to fund the Preparatory Conference on Women for the ECE region;

(p) Attendance at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, September 1994;

(q) Attendance at the ECE High-level Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Vienna, October 1994. The Council submitted a written statement on the draft regional platform for action (ECE/NGO/1) and a written statement on agenda item 7 ("Women in Public Life and Governance"), and the Girl Child (ECE/NGO/4) as well as an oral statement on the situation of women and women's non-governmental organizations in countries of Central and

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Eastern Europe and in the countries of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR);

(r) Attendance at the Third Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development in New York, January 1995;

(s) Attendance at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, March 1995;

(t) Attendance at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, 15 March-4 April 1995. The Council submitted a written statement on agenda item 3 (E/CN.6/1995/NGO/1);

(u) Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 4-15 September 1995. Four members of the Council took part in the Conference as members of the German Government delegation; five members represented the Council as a non-governmental organization delegation.

Other activities

The Council constantly lobbies Parliament and Government to implement United Nations conventions and resolutions in Germany. The Council continuously monitors the implementation of action plans of the preceding world conferences like the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development as member of the relevant NGO forums in Germany. Furthermore, the Council participates in the national implementation process of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

The Council worked closely with the officials of the ECE secretariat in preparation for the ECE High-level regional preparatory meeting in Vienna and in lobbying for the strengthening of the regional commissions in order to implement the regional and global platforms for action in favour of women's rights. The Council worked closely together with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and with the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Gertrude Mongella.

The Council published a monthly magazine, inter alia, reporting on United Nations activities. Copies have been forwarded to the Secretariat.

32. NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

The mission of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is to educate, inspire and assist individuals and organizations of diverse cultures with regard to conserving wildlife and other natural resources and to protecting the environment for a peaceful, equitable and sustainable future.

The National Wildlife Federation is the largest conservation education organization in the United States of America, with 3.3 million members and supporters. Through research, publications, litigation, volunteer training and assistance and public education, the National Wildlife Federation seeks to prepare for the environmental challenges of the coming century. Maintaining a Department of International Affairs, National Wildlife Federation continues a dialogue with environmental organizations, government agencies, multilateral bodies, and concerned individuals worldwide. The National Wildlife Federation is a non-governmental non-profit tax-exempt conservation organization.

NWF activities relevant to the United Nations

1992: Carried out major initiatives to garner public attention and support for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Activities included launching the United States Citizens' Network for Sustainable Development, a major membership network with over 2,000 members in the United States; organizing a series of successful teleconferences aimed at ensuring that President George Bush would attend the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, with meaningful commitments from the United States. NWF's Director of International Programs, Barbara J. Bramble, co-chaired the organizing committee for the International NGO Forum in Rio, and launched the alternative treaty process. NWF followed up in the United States with conferences, solidification of the Citizens' Network, and publication and dissemination of the full set of non-governmental organization treaties and the text of Agenda 21.[1] NWF carried out press outreach to draw attention to the important agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and sent representatives, who made substantive contributions to every session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

1993: NWF President, Jay D. Hair, was appointed to serve on the President's Council on Sustainable Development, the main vehicle for implementing United Nations Conference on Environment and Development commitments in the United States. NWF's Senior Legislative Representative for International Affairs and its Trade and Environment Specialist were both active in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and participated in the process leading up to the founding of the World Trade Organization. NWF sent a representative to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development. NWF's Population Program Coordinator and Population Specialist assembled a network of over 100 non-governmental organizations from Northern and Southern countries to publish to a declaration of principles entitled "Population, Environment and Development" which supported the goals of the draft programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

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1994: NWF sent a sizeable delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development, engaged in press and radio outreach in favour of the goals of the Conference, participated in all three sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and launched a successful nationwide teleconference from the third session of the Preparatory Committee, which garnered over 700 new activists on behalf of population and development activities.

1995: NWF mobilized activists nationwide to write well in excess of 4,000 letters to Congress, and to make hundreds of phone calls in favour of appropriating necessary funds for United Nations activities in sustainable development, and against provisions in the Foreign Relations Revitalization Act that would have prohibited funds to a list of 13 international bodies including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and others. NWF held a major conference, in Washington, D.C., on "Accounting for the Environment" aimed at promoting the methodology of natural resources accounting within the Bretton Woods institutions, in the United States and internationally: staff of the United Nations Statistics Division participated. In 1995, NWF also presented its highest accolade, the Conservation Achievement Award, to Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.

NWF lobbied on numerous occasions against Chinese Government attempts to exclude non-governmental organizations from the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. An NWF representative attended the Fourth World Conference on Women and shared news of the Conference with a worldwide network of over 270 non-governmental organizations.

NWF representatives attended the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York. Barbara J. Bramble, Director of the International Office of NWF, presented a paper to the high-level segment of the session on the future of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Other NWF representatives also arranged for a well-attended non-governmental organization briefing on alternative technology during the fourth session of the Commission.

Throughout the quadrennium, NWF has lobbied the United States Congress in favour of expanded United States participation in the United Nations; for high levels of voluntary contributions to the specialized agencies of the United Nations system whose work has a bearing on population and the global environment, and for payment of United States arrears to the United Nations. Testimony submitted for the record to the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee of the United States Congress was forwarded to the Secretariat. In the same vein, letters, faxes and other communications to the United States Congress and Administration have been generated by NWF and by its members in every year of the quadrennium, in numbers too great to be affixed to the present report.

Notes

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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33. NEW HUMANITY

(Special consultative status)

New Humanity represents the activities of four related organizations at the United Nations: New Humanity, New Families, Youth for a United World, and Young for Unity. The purpose of these organizations, present in most nations of the world, is to improve the economic and social conditions of people in all societies through the spirit of unity and solidarity inspired by the Focolare Movement. The emphasis placed by New Humanity on building unity makes its goals highly compatible with the goals of the United Nations. About 4 million people participate in the activities of New Humanity.

Activities of New Humanity and New Families associated with the United Nations

New Humanity representatives participated in the planning and implementation of the activities connected with the International Year of the Family. This included participation by New Humanity members from Vienna and Rome on planning committees for the International Year of the Family and at the NGO Committee on the Family in Vienna during the planning stages for the Year's activities. New Humanity and New Families planned and carried out a worldwide "Family Fest" with a three-hour simultaneous two-way live telecast by satellite reaching six continents. The President of Italy as well as the officers in charge of the International Year of the Family and others from their staff attended the principle broadcast site located in Rome, Italy. Connections were made via satellite to all the countries of Europe, Brazil, Venezuela, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Kenya, and the United States of America, and through ground and microwave transmission throughout the continents of Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, Australia and South America. In several countries, the national televisions stations carried the programme live. The video of the Family Fest was used in various meetings of the International Year of the Family including the main World NGO Forum on Launching the International Year of the Family in Malta. Leaders of New Humanity and New Families also participated in the conference for the International Year of the Family in Malta. The main representative of New Humanity in Vienna participated in the conference called "Focus on Families: Action and Issues Beyond IYF", United Nations, Vienna, 6 and 7 November 1995.

Members of New Humanity from Egypt represented New Humanity at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, and members from the Netherlands and Spain represented New Humanity at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.

Each year, New Humanity sponsors a meeting at the United Nations in New York, on social or economic development. In 1994, the conference focused on the life and writings of Igino Giordani, an Italian author, statesman, and politician who was one of the first members of New Humanity. Over 300 people attended the conference held at the Church Center. In 1995, the conference, attended by 350 people, explored experiences of women working for peace in Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia, Soligen, Germany and Algeria. Other

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topics at these annual meetings included New Humanity's economic initiative called the Economy of Sharing. The Economy of Sharing encourages businesses to put a share of their assets to use for the benefit of the poor around them as well as for the well-being of the business and its owners, employees, and customers. Over 400 businesses worldwide participate in the Economy of Sharing. The Secretary-General of New Humanity attended the annual meetings of non-governmental organizations at the United Nations in New York in September of each year.

New Humanity sponsors annual international workshops on economics, social development, youth and culture at its main meeting centre in Castelgondolfo, Italy, and similar meetings are repeated throughout the year at centres in over 60 countries. Periodically, international conferences are held on health care, communications, education and ethics.

New Humanity members have numerous projects throughout the world in all these fields. For example, New Humanity works to alleviate pockets of marginalization, sickness, poverty, hunger, homelessness, joblessness and illiteracy, in Cameroon, Mali, Brazil, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Mexico, Colombia, the Philippines, Australia, Thailand, Hong Kong, India, the Russian Federation, Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Spain, France, Belgium and many other countries. One project, Adoption at a Distance, provides monthly subsistence allowances for hundreds of needy families, women, children and men of all backgrounds in Bosnia, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America through contributions collected from donor families in many countries.

Activities of Youth for a United World and Week for Unity

In May 1995, Youth for a United World (YUW), aged 14-20, presented the "Genfest" in Rome, Italy. Over 12,000 young people participated in person from throughout the world. Speakers included young people from different sides in various troubled areas of the world describing how they had worked to build unity among their people despite the suffering that divided them. The programme was broadcast via satellite throughout the world for two hours reaching millions of people. The video continues to be rebroadcast on various television networks in the United States and on television stations in numerous countries. As a result of the Genfest, the Youth initiated a Week for Unity, the first week of May, each year.

Publications

Many articles carrying stories about the United Nations have been published in publications associated with New Humanity in 21 countries. Examples are listed on the following page.

The following are examples of articles:

(a) "Boutros Ghali: above the fray at the UN", Cittá Nuova, 10 January 1992;

(b) "The family in a changing world. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Conference on the Family", Cittá Nuova, vol. 36, No. 7 (1992);

(c) "The International Year of the World's Indigenous People", parts 1, 2, and 3, Living City, vol. 32, Nos. 4, 5 and 6 (April, May 1993 and June 1993);

(d) "Refugees: a challenge to solidarity", Living City, vol. 32, No. 5 (May 1993);

(e) "Human rights: is anybody there?" Living City, vol. 32, No. 6 (June 1993);

(f) "Family fest", Living City, vol. 32, No. 8 (August 1993);

(g) "378 wonders of the world", Living City, vol. 32, No. 11 (December 1993);

(h) "United Nations International Year of the Family", Living City, vol. 33, No. 2 (February 1994);

(i) "Unity of peoples: hope for humanity", Living City, vol. 33, No. 3 (March 1994);

(j) "United Nations International Water Conservation Day", Living City, vol. 33, No. 4 (April 1994);

(k) Subsidiary rights, responsibilities and freedom", Living City, vol. 33, No. 6 (June 1994);

(l) "Population and development: road to Cairo", Living City, vol. 33, No. 8 (August 1994);

(m) "Economy of Sharing", Living City, vol. 34, No. 1 (January 1995);

(n) "Youth for peace", Living City, vol. 34, No. 2 (February 1995);

(o) "Focus on women", Living City, vol. 34, No. 4 (April 1995);

(p) "1995: Year of Tolerance", Living City, vol. 34, No. 5 (May 1995);

(q) "A United Nations School for Peace in Torino", Cittá Nuova, vol. 39, No. 9 (10 May 1995);

(r) "Half Century of the United Nations", Cittá Nuova, vol. 39, No. 13 (10 July 1995);

(s) "A united world: let's show it!", Living City, vol. 34, No. 8 (August 1995);

(t) "The Pope at the United Nations", Cittá Nuova, vol. 39, No. 20 (25 October 1995).

34. ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY (OATUU)

(General consultative status)

The Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) is the umbrella continental organization of the African trade unions. It was established in 1973 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It has at present in its fold 73 affiliated trade union centres in the 53 African countries.

The aims and purposes of the organization among others are:

(a) To build trade union unity both at national and at continental levels, and to coordinate and guide the actions of the affiliated national centres;

(b) To defend human and trade union rights;

(c) To work for the harmonization of labour legislations and collective bargaining in member countries;

(d) To affirm the independence and personality of the African trade union movement and represent the interest of African workers in all regional and international organizations as well as institutions;

(e) To foster friendly relations and solidarity with all workers of the world and international trade union organizations on the basis of respect and equality;

(f) To fight for economic integration of Africa;

(g) To defend peace all over the world.

OATUU has in its fold a geographical membership from 53 African countries of about 30 million workers. Its source of income is derived from subscriptions from member affiliates, subsidies, donations and legacies. The congress which is the supreme organ of the organization determines the contributions of members countries.

OATUU is an independent trade union organization that has no affiliation. It however maintains fraternal and egalitarian relations with many trade union organizations throughout the world. It is in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and in consultative status with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

OATUU's major commitment is to developing very good relationships with trade union movements of all tendencies throughout the world, notably its partners, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the World Confederation of Labour (WCL) and the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). It also has a cordial relationship with the following regional and national organizations, to mention only a few:

(a) Commonwealth Trade Union Council (CTUC);

(b) International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU);

(c) European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC);

(d) All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU);

(e) Dutch Trade Union Confederation (FNV);

(f) Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO).

Since its establishment, OATU has, for the past 22 years, actively participated in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings as given below:

1992:

(a) Two hundred fifty-second and 253rd sessions of the Governing Body of ILO held in Geneva (Switzerland): 2-6 March and 21-30 May 1992, respectively;

(b) Tripartite ILO Conference on Southern Africa: Harare (Zimbabwe), 5-8 May 1992;

(c) ILO Regional Conference on Health and Safety at the Workplace: Harare, 26-28 May 1992;

(d) Ninth International Meeting of Non-Governmental Organizations on the Palestinian Issue: Geneva (Switzerland), 26-28 July 1992;

(e) Seventeenth FAO African Regional Conference: Accra (Ghana), 20-24 July, 1992;

(f) ILO African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC) Tripartite Seminar on Structural Adjustment Programmes: Harare (Zimbabwe), 3-7 August 1992;

(g) Meeting of the Permanent Secretariat of the Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian Workers and People: Damascus, (Syrian Arab Republic), 25 and 26 September 1992;

(h) ILO Regional Trade Union Meeting on Laws and Collective Bargaining in Health and Safety: Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania), 23-27 November 1992;

(i) ILO Seminar on Rural Workers Development of Convention 141 for French-speaking African Countries, 1-5 December 1992.

1993:

(a) Meeting of the permanent secretariat of the International Committee of Solidarity with the Palestinian Workers and People, Tunis (Tunisia), 9 and 10 January 1993;

(b) Meeting of support to the 415 Palestinians expelled from the Arab Occupied Territories, Tunis (Tunisia), January 1993;

(c) ILO/OATUU Training and Material Development in Health and Safety, Accra (Ghana), 23-28 February 1993;

(d) ILO/OATUU High-level Conference on Structural Adjustment Programmes and Safety, Cairo (Egypt), 16-18 April 1993;

(e) Two hundred fifty-sixth session of the ILO Governing Body, Geneva (Switzerland), 27-29 May 1993;

(f) Seventy-ninth session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva (Switzerland), June;

(g) Meeting of the permanent secretariat of the International Committee of Solidarity with the Palestinian Workers and Peoples, Geneva (Switzerland), 12 June 1993;

(h) ILO/OATUU Workshop on Chemical Safety, Harare (Zimbabwe), 12-16 July 1993;

(i) OAU/ Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)/OATUU Continental-wide Seminar on the African Economic Community, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 26-29 July 1993;

(j) United Nations Colloquium on the Palestinian Problem, Dakar (Senegal), 31 August-3 September 1993;

(k) Two hundred fifty-eighth session of the Governing Body of ILO, Geneva (Switzerland), 9-19 November 1993.

1994:

(a) ILO/OATUU Subregional Seminar on the Evaluation of Trade Union Education, Accra (Ghana), 15-20 February 1994;

(b) ILO/ECA OATUU Seminar on Democracy and Popular Participation, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 12-14 April 1994;

(c) ILO/OATUU Workshop on Health an Safety, Sogakope (Ghana), 10-14 May 1994;

(d) Eighty-first session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva (Switzerland), 7-24 June 1994;

(e) ILO/OATUU Health and Safety Workshop: Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania), 18-22 July 1994;

(f) ILO Trade Union Workshop on Chemical Safety, United Republic of Tanzania, 29 July 1994;

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(g) ILO Tripartite Conference on the Socio-Economic Implications of the Devaluation of the (CFA), Dakar (Senegal), 17-20 October 1994;

(h) ILO Tripartite Workshop on Reproduction, Health and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Kampala (Uganda), 29 November-1 December 1994.

1995:

(a) NGO Forum for the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (Denmark), 3-12 March 1995;

(b) ILO/OATUU Seminar on Population Management in Africa and Role of Trade Unions, Accra (Ghana), 16-18 May 1995;

(c) Eighty-second session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva (Switzerland);

(d) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (China), 4-15 September 1995.

The participation in the above-mentioned conferences and meetings was undertaken either by the Secretary-General or by his assistants.

Other relevant activities in which OATUU took part included:

(a) Comments made on resolution 1994/11 of the Commission on Human Rights on "Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development";

(b) Salient points made on the main features of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank orthodox structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), *inter alia*:

(i) Massive (20-30 per cent) retrenchment of public service workers;

(ii) Withdrawal of the state subsidy on food, education, health, public transport, water electricity;

(iii) Trade liberalization;

(iv) Privatization of state-owned enterprises;

(v) High interest rates (30-40 per cent);

(c) Observations on violation of trade union rights, namely, that the human rights of public service workers of African countries implementing the SAPs had been grossly and very disastrously violated;

(d) Proposals, therefore, that any economic, social or political programme from whatever source should not be implemented without the active participation and involvement of the workers.

35. ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CAPITALS AND CITIES (OICC)

(General consultative status)

Introduction and aims

Introduction

The Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) is an international organization founded on 30 January 1980. The headquarters are in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The local authorities of capitals and cities in 54 United Nations member countries are members of OICC. This means that the geographical membership distribution has increased its coverage from 42 to 54 countries. OICC is a non-governmental organization in consultative status (originally special consultative status) with the Economic and Social Council since 1991. It was reclassified to general consultative status in 1995.

Aims

Aims are:

(a) To strengthen the bonds of friendship, brotherhood and solidarity among OICC members;

(b) To promote and develop cooperation among OICC members and to expand its scope;

(c) To preserve the identity and heritage of OICC members;

(d) To seek to implement comprehensive ordinances and urban planning to guide the growth of the members in accordance with their actual economic, social, cultural and environmental characteristics;

(e) To upgrade the standards of development and public services and utilities, taking into consideration the factor of keeping a sustainable environment in OICC members.

It is clear from the aims mentioned above that OICC is concerned with most of the activities of the Economic and Social Council involving areas such as road traffic safety, urban planning and transportation, development planning, crime prevention and control, children, population, research and development, environment preservation and protection, health, training, education and culture and tourism.

OICC's programmes and activities are in keeping with the United Nations Charter, conferences and activities. Its emphasis since the Rio Earth Summit is to promote Agenda 21[1] in all relevant fields of member cities. It is keen on cooperation with United Nations bodies and other international organizations in implementing its programmes.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Participation included:

(a) NGO weekly briefings organized by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat (DPI);

(b) Annual DPI/NGO Conference (1992, 1993, 1995);

(c) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992;

(d) Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 25 August-3 September 1992;

(e) Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat Seminar on "Urban Information Systems and their Applications in Developing Countries", Beijing, China, 13-17 October 1992. A paper on "Urban Information Systems Experiences in OICC members" was also submitted;

(f) Fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, New York, January 1993;

(g) Round-table conference, non-governmental organizations and Economic and Social Council, Geneva;

(h) Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development held in New York in 1993 and 1994;

(i) "International Colloquium of Mayors", United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations, New York, 18 and 19 August 1994;

(j) Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, New York, 22 August-2 September 1994;

(k) Meeting of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), United Nations, New York, 17-20 August 1994;

(l) International Conference on Population and Development, 5-13 September 1994;

(m) Seminar on "Best Practices", United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Dubai, 19-22 November 1995;

(n) World Habitat Day (October 1992-1995);

(o) Meetings of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (1992-1995).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

Cooperation included:

(a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Non-Governmental Organization Committee meetings (1992-1994);

(b) Submission of OICC proposal to UNICEF to conduct a study on "Road Safety of the World's Children", April 1992;

(c) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) "Workshop for the Development of Cooperation and Technological Exchanges of Direct Deduction Process in Selected Arab Countries", Cairo, Egypt, 1-5 November 1993;

(d) UNIDO meetings on "Cooperation in Patents Licensing and Know-how of Petrochemical Industries between Selected Developing Countries", Al Manamah, Bahrain, 15-18 November 1993;

(e) UNIDO seminar on "Development of Small- and Medium-Scale Industries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)", Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, November 1994;

(f) UNIDO "Forum on Industrial Cooperation and Promotion of Joint Ventures among Islamic Countries", Kuwait, 3-6 December 1994;

(g) UNICEF/NGO Committee meetings, 1992-1994;

(h) OICC Co-sponsoring of the First "Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change and the Urban Environment", which was also sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI), United Nations, New York, 25 and 26 January 1993;

(i) OICC and Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat co-sponsored International Seminar on "Geographical Information Systems, City Sustainability, and Environment", Cairo, Egypt, 10-14 December 1995. The Under-Secretary-General for Development Suppor and Management Services in his letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations described the Seminar as an "overwhelming success".

Other relevant activities

These included:

(a) "World Urban Forum", Curitiba, Brazil, 29 May 1992;

(b) Preparatory conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 1 and 2 June 1992;

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(c) Regular meetings of United Nations NGO Unit/Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) (example: Geneva, 20 October 1992);

(d) First Green Fleet Workshop (ICLEI), Toronto, Canada, 11-18 June 1994;

(e) "International Colloquium of Mayors", United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and UNDP, United Nations, New York, 18 and 19 August 1994;

(f) Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, New York, 22 August-2 September 1994;

(g) Arab NGO PrepCom Meeting for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1 and 2 September 1994;

(h) Second Municipal Leaders Summit on "Climate Change and the Urban Environment", ICLEI, Berlin, Germany, 17-29 March 1995;

(i) Third Municipal Leaders Summit on "Climate Change and the Urban Environment", ICLEI, Saitama, Japan, 24-26 October 1995;

(j) G4+ Group Meeting for United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Kuwait, 17 and 18 November 1995;

(k) Seminar on "Best Practices" (Habitat), Dubai, 19-22 November 1995;

(l) OICC-organized, -implemented, and -sponsored Seminar on Local Administration and Municipalities Regulations at its Training Centre in Cairo, Egypt, in February 1992;

(m) Fifth Seminar on "Road Safety and Accidents Reduction", Ankara, Turkey, 5-7 July 1993, organized by OICC;

(n) OICC General Conference which adopted and approved several United Nations declarations on health, environment, lifestyle and children;

(o) Continued OICC publishing and disseminating of United Nations information through its Islamic Capitals and Cities magazine, a bilingual publication (Arabic and English with French translation; 3,000 copies per issue distributed worldwide);

(p) OICC publications:

(i) Bukhara, the Heritage City in Uzbekistan, a reference book, bilingual, Arabic and English, 120 pages, 2,000 copies, 1993;

(ii) Two seminar proceedings on local administration and road safety, bilingual;

(q) OICC dissemination of United Nations information through its Conferences Administrative Council meetings, seminars, symposiums and training courses;

(r) OICC maintaining of resident representatives at the United Nations in New York, and the United Nations Office at Geneva and at Vienna.

Notes

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

36. PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

(Special consultative status)

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is a network of political leaders from around the world. Membership is open to any elected member serving in a national or regional legislature and currently comprises some 1,100 parliamentarians from 95 countries. Four years ago there were 750 members from only 65 countries.

PGA promotes international peace, security, democracy and development through global cooperation and the strengthening of international institutions, treaties and law. In peacekeeping and security, the programme has served as an intermediary between United Nations officials, the United States Congress, and other parliaments. Initiatives include work in the nuclear-test-ban field (PGA pioneered the 1991 session of the Amendment Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water and helped bring about the adoption of General Assembly resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994, in which the Assembly identified general areas for step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat) the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (General Assembly resolution 2826 (XXVI) Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)), and work on the establishment of an international criminal court.

In the nuclear-test-ban field, PGA worked to draft a series of General Assembly resolutions that were adopted under the agenda item of the First Committee of the General Assembly, and was integral to the drafting of and follow-up to the Assembly resolution on the reduction of the nuclear threat. PGA initiated the partial test ban treaty (PTBT) amendment process, and worked closely with the United Nations Secretariat in orchestrating both the PTBT Amendment Conference and the special meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty. This effort helped bring about the current negotiations on the test ban, and the 1994 General Assembly resolution in which the Assembly identified general areas for step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat.

Related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in January 1993, PGA sponsored a symposium on the implementation of the CWC resulting in the drafting of a Parliamentary Declaration in support of the CWC which has now been signed by 1,306 Parliamentarians from 54 countries. PGA continues to work towards bringing the Convention into force.

The Democracy and Development section has been active in the support of transitional democracies in the field of sustainable development, economic revitalization, and in the empowerment of women in politics. Delegations have been mobilized to observe transitional elections and mediate political stalemates. PGA members work in close coordination with the special representatives of the Secretary-General in several troubled areas.

PGA has also helped organize many United Nations conferences, sending delegations to the United Nations conferences in Rio de Janeiro, Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul. PGA participated in the International Conference on

Population and Development in Cairo, and contributed to the final document including the consensus language on abortion.

PGA's work in Burundi and Haiti on preventive political action was initiated with the support of the special representatives of the Secretary-General. Participants in the projects have worked closely with the special representatives of the Secretary-General in Burundi and Haiti and have reported regularly to the Secretary-General.

PGA members were in their official delegations to the International Conference on Population and Development and Social Summit. PGA worked with the delegations of Australia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Pakistan, Germany, Denmark, India and Egypt to ensure parliamentary input into the final documents of Cairo and Copenhagen.

PGA organized three parliamentary delegations to consult with members of the International Law Commission in 1993 and 1994 to finalize the draft statute for an international criminal court, and affirm the role parliamentarians must assume in shaping the political context of international criminal court negotiations.

The organization consulted with members of the special Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, and is presently engaged in a dialogue with members of the Preparatory Committee for the international criminal court with a view to providing input into its work on a finalized convention for an international criminal court. In addition, PGA members urged members of the Security Council and the Secretariat to proceed with the creation of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 in 1992. PGA contributed to deliberations within the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly on the creation of an international criminal court, that is to say, it proposed language for a General Assembly resolution on the international criminal court.

PGA had a Washington Workshop on Post-Cairo Aid for Population on 18 October 1995 at the United States Senate to follow up the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo. The meeting brought together 47 parliamentarians, representing 29 countries, including members of foreign aid and related committees, to discuss their role in implementing the Cairo Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

PGA organized delegations from the task force on Africa at the request of the United Nations electoral assistance unit for the South Africa and Mozambique elections and worked with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to organize an early warning workshop with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to pull together United Nations agencies and actors on early warning and preventive action.

PGA also held a conference of women legislators in their official delegations at the Fourth World Conference on Women with the support of the United Nations Secretariat, and PGA was scheduled to participate in the Expert

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Group Meeting on Women and Peace, to be held in the Dominican Republic in autumn 1996. PGA's network for the empowerment of women (post-Beijing) will work with the Department of Human Resources Management and the Department of Administration and Management of the United Nations Secretariat to help identify women for senior United Nations posts.

PGA worked with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in organizing three workshops: (a) one in May 1993, which coincided with the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development. Thirty leaders on population and development on issues from 23 countries, as well as experts such as Mr. Fred Sai, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its second session, participated; (b) one in December 1993, held in Bangladesh to discuss policies on reduction of consumption rates and stabilization of population growth. Eighty per cent of PGA's recommendations were incorporated in the Conference document at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference; (c) one in April 1994, including a strategy to mobilize parliamentary support for the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development, and held in conjunction with the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. Dr. Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA and Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development, attended.

PGA and UNFPA also organized an international meeting of Foreign Aid Committees of Donor Countries on 18 October 1995 in the United States Senate in Washington, D.C. Sixty Parliamentarians representing 30 countries discussed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. PGA's work on population was supported by partial funding from UNFPA from 1993 to 1996. Workshops were organized at the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, and at the International Conference on Population and Development with the support of UNFPA. The meeting of members of foreign aid committees was also organized at the United States Senate with UNFPA support.

In cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), PGA publishes a bimonthly bulletin containing population-related laws, proposals, motions and resolutions sponsored by PGA members. The bulletin provided information for members of parliaments, agencies, United Nations programmes and non-governmental organizations.

PGA's work on the 20/20 initiative during the World Summit for Social Development process was supported by partial funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Parliamentary workshops were organized at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit and at the Social Summit in Copenhagen. PGA also organized a workshop on democracy and peace with the Governance Division and the Regional Bureau for Africa in Burundi.

Initially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) worked with PGA on the Social Summit which led up to Copenhagen, and this work included the January 1995 forum on the 20/20 initiative funded by UNESCO. UNESCO was also involved in the "Orientation

Programme on United Nations Peacekeeping and Peace-Building: A Necessary Partnership for the Twenty-first Century". UNESCO supported the programme financially and provided materials on peace-building and its "Towards a culture of peace" programme. The Programme provided parliamentarians with a first-hand look at the activities of Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat headquarters operations, with a view to educating on how peacekeeping leads to peace-building.

PGA has collaborated with numerous non-governmental organizations including the Japanese League for the United Nations and co-sponsored the conference held in Gifu, Japan, on United Nations reform, 10-12 September 1995. One hundred parliamentarians from 50 nations attended.

Funding levels fluctuate according to programme interests and PGA has seen a steady increase in sources among which may be numbered the World Bank which helped fund PGA's 1995 Annual Forum in Washington, D.C., on global economic revitalization.

Notes

[1] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), Chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

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37. SIERRA CLUB LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (SCLDF)

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (SCLDF) is a non-profit public interest environmental law organization whose purpose is to provide advice concerning environmental laws, their content and application on behalf of other non-profit organizations with an interest in protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural and human environment. SCLDF provides legal representation for other organizations in courts of the United States of America and before international tribunals.

SCLDF promotes development of international environmental rights and standards through participation in the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In addition, SCLDF educates members and others regarding international environmental rights and standards.

Geographical membership

SCLDF's geographical membership has increased over the reporting period. Current membership is as follows: Africa: Egypt (1), Kenya (1), Nigeria (1), the Sudan (1); Americas: Argentina (1), the Bahamas (1), Barbados (1), Bermuda (3), Bolivia (5), Brazil (2), Canada (98), Chile (2), Costa Rica (4), Guatemala (1), Mexico (10), the United States (180,000); Asia: Cambodia (1), China (3), French Polynesia (1), Guam (1), Hong Kong (1), India (4), Indonesia (1), Israel (4), Japan (23), the Republic of Korea (2), Nepal (1), the Philippines (2), Saudi Arabia (5), Taiwan Province of China (2), the United Arab Emirates (1); Australasia: Australia (20), New Zealand (4); Europe: Austria (2), Belgium (1), Denmark (3), England (36), France (18), Germany (22), Greece (1), Hungary (2), Ireland (1), Italy (3), Monaco (1), the Netherlands (5), Norway (3), Portugal (1), Scotland (5), Spain (2), Sweden (4), Switzerland (15).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

SCLDF representatives attended every session of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities during the reporting period. SCLDF's participation included working with United Nations officials, and members of government and non-governmental delegations to promote human rights and the environment. Formal submissions included the following.

Commission: At the forty-ninth session of the Commission, March 1993, SCLDF made oral statements under agenda item 13, on measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers; and agenda item 14, on human rights and scientific and technological developments. At the fifty-first session, February 1995, SCLDF made an oral statement under agenda item 19, on human rights and the environment.

Subcommission: At the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission, August 1992, SCLDF made oral statements under agenda item 4, on further developments in fields with which the Subcommission had been concerned; agenda item 6, on the Narmada Valley Sardar Sarovar Projects: human and environmental impacts; and agenda item 8, on economic, social and cultural rights. SCLDF submitted a written statement under agenda item 4 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/NGO/18).

At the forty-fifth session, August 1993, SCLDF made oral statements under agenda item 4, on human rights and the environment; and agenda item 8, on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. At the forty-sixth session, August 1994, SCLDF made oral statements under agenda item 4, on human rights and the environment; and agenda items 7 and 8, on realization of economic, social and cultural rights. SCLDF also submitted written statements on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/38); and under agenda item 4 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/NGO/24).

At the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission, August 1995, SCLDF made an oral statement under agenda item 4, on human rights and the environment. SCLDF also submitted a written statement under agenda item 4 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/NGO/25).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

SCLDF worked extensively with the Subcommission's Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, consulting with her and conducting research on issues having to do with human rights and the environment. In May 1994, SCLDF in cooperation with the *Association mondiale pour l'école instrument de paix* (World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace) and the *Société suisse pour la protection de l'environnement*, and on behalf of the special rapporteur, convened a meeting of experts on human rights and the environment at the United Nations Office at Geneva.[1] Participants included scholars, representatives of non-governmental organizations, United Nations human rights officials, and representatives of United Nations agencies. The experts produced a draft declaration of principles on human rights and the environment (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9, annex I).

SCLDF has also consulted with and presented research materials to the Commission's Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights.

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Other relevant activities

SCLDF representatives have met with government officials and other non-governmental organizations to promote the recommendations in the final report of the Subcommission Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9). SCLDF has disseminated thousands of copies of the final report in all parts of the world and has produced numerous publications relating to human rights and the environment.[2]

Notes

[1] The rapporteur on human rights and the environment recommended in her 1993 report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/7) that the United Nations Centre for Human Rights convene an experts meeting on human rights and the environment. The Subcommission, in its resolution 1993/32 of 25 August 1993, invited the Secretary-General to organize such a meeting. Serious budgetary problems prevented the Secretary-General from organizing the meeting. SCLDF did sponsor the meeting, with the Centre for Human Rights providing facilities and staff. (See E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9, para. 8.)

[2] Copies of selected publications have been forwarded to the United Nations Secretariat.

38. SOCIETY FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF SOCIAL ISSUES (SPSSI)

(Special consultative status)

Background

Formed in 1936, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) is an international non-governmental organization of 3,500 psychologists and allied scientists who share a common interest in research, education, and advocacy on the psychological aspects of important social issues. Headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and independently incorporated, SPSSI is also Division 9 of the American Psychological Association (APA). The Society seeks to bring theory and practice into focus on human problems at the group, community, national and international levels. This is accomplished through conferences, grants and fellowships, the publication of The Journal of Social Issues, books and the SPSSI Newsletter, which contains a United Nations column. The Society also collaborates with other organizations, domestically and internationally, by providing speakers and programmes.

Since being granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Society's international membership has more than doubled in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America, adding members from previously unrepresented countries. In December 1995, the international membership stood at 377 persons from 46 countries, with international representation on the Society's governing council. The Society offers the opportunity for free membership to scholars in developing nations. There has been no substantial change in the sources of the Society's funding in the past four years, although income has increased.

The Society is in consultative status with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and is in association with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat. While the Society is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), it has no formal affiliation with any other non-governmental organization in consultative status.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies and conferences

World Conferences: SPSSI actively participated in sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). This participation has included the editing and sponsorship of position papers, developed in collaboration with other non-governmental organizations, on ageing, presented to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, and a position paper on children, delivered at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development in 1994. Additionally, representatives have consulted on these issues with United Nations agency representatives from UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Subprogramme on Ageing of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: In collaboration with other non-governmental organizations, the organization's representative conducted surveys regarding correctional practices in the world's prison systems completed in 1994. Results of the surveys aimed at establishing humane international standards for prison health care, extradition and juvenile justice, were published in the International Prison Health Care Report and distributed to Commission members, as well as to the international correctional community.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): At the request of UNHCR, SPSSI responded to the Draft Guidelines on Evaluation and Care of Victims of Trauma and Violence, 1994.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and the specialized agencies

Department of Public Information: SPSSI's representative has served on the Executive Committee of non-governmental organizations associated with the Department of Public Information, working with various chiefs of the NGO Section of the Department of Public Information to facilitate United Nations-Non-Governmental Organization relations. SPSSI members have served as rapporteurs, panellists and chairpersons at the annual (autumn) DPI/NGO conferences, particularly in September 1993, on the topic "Conflict resolution", and again in 1994 and 1995. Representatives regularly attend Department of Public Information weekly briefings in New York.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): SPSSI representatives participated in UNICEF/non-governmental organization working groups, notably the non-governmental organization Working Group on the Rights of the Child, and the non-governmental organization Caucus on the Girl Child, resulting in a Department of Public Information briefing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] 1993, in New York.

Other relevant activities

Action to implement United Nations resolutions

(a) United Nations conventions on human rights: SPSSI collaborated with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in education and advocacy efforts to promote implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;[3]

(b) Indigenous peoples: During 1993-1994, a SPSSI representative contributed to the language of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

(a) The Society published a Global Directory of Social Scientists for the United Nations (1993) which was distributed to 500 individuals in diplomatic missions and United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Secretariat in New York and Geneva. The Directory includes nearly 100 scholars from 22 countries, representing Africa, Asia and Oceania, North America, Western Europe and Middle Eastern States. Areas of scholarly specialization include ageing, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), children, communication, crime, culture, drugs, education, employment, environment, human rights, mental health and illness, negotiations, peace, poverty, racism, refugees, and women;

(b) The Society prepared a resolution adopted by the American Psychological Association (APA) honouring the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, presented to Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile, in New York, in August 1995, at the annual convention of APA. At the same meeting, Ambassador Somavia was the keynote speaker on a panel exploring social development;

(c) At SPSSI's initiative, United Nations speakers gave keynote addresses at the annual APA conventions in August 1993 and 1994. In 1993, Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, participated in a dialogue on "The Spread of Racism and Xenophobia in the World Today". In 1994, two distinguished speakers, one from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the other from the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), discussed the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995);

(d) In August 1995, SPSSI held a consultation with representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department for Economic and Social Information of the United Nations Secretariat on possible social science contributions to the development of indicators for human development, reported in the Newsletter of the Society and circulated to the Department of Public Information.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[2] General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 38/180, annex.

39. SPECIAL OLYMPICS INTERNATIONAL

(Special consultative status)

Background information

Special Olympics International (SOI) is the world's largest sports organization for persons with mental retardation. The mission of SOI is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, and participate in sharing of gifts and friendship with their families and the community. The goal is for all persons with mental retardation to have the chance to become useful and productive citizens who are accepted and respected in their communities.

Since its inception in 1968, SOI has been a catalyst in helping to bring people with mental disability out of the shadows of neglect and into the mainstream of life. During that time and up to now, SOI has reached millions of athletes, aged eight years or over, worldwide.

Membership in SOI during the four-year reporting period has increased from 75 countries to 144, with 1.1 million athletes with mental retardation actively participating.

Activities

The work undertaken by SOI during the period under review was in accordance with, and complements the, world programme of action as set forth by the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons which was adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1971, resolution 2856 (XXVI). In compliance with this Declaration, SOI has endeavoured to increase the number of participating countries which has nearly doubled since 1992 and to give an opportunity to mentally retarded athletes from around the world to participate in Olympic-style international games.

The fifth Special Olympics World Winter Games in Salzburg, Austria, 20-27 March 1993: 2,000 mentally handicapped athletes from 80 countries participated in these Games which included the following sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey and speed skating.

The ninth Special Olympics World Summer Games were held in New Haven, Connecticut, from 1 to 9 July 1995, and 7,200 mentally handicapped athletes from 143 countries took part in these Games which included 17 Olympic-type sports.

Prior to the New Haven World Games, on 30 June 1995, the Subprogramme on Disabled of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Secretariat, and SOI jointly organized a seminar entitled "Intellectual Disability: Programmes, Policies and Planning for the Future" which was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

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Leading experts in the field of mental disability from various countries and from the United Nations and its specialized agencies addressed the symposium.

The United Nations/SOI symposium took note of the enormous disparity that exists among nations as to the status of persons with intellectual disabilities. The symposium provided an opportunity for researchers, policy makers, service delivery personnel, caregivers, and others to come together and learn about the worldwide advances for people with intellectual disabilities.

The landmark United Nations/SOI symposium marked the beginning of a renewed effort to advance globally the causes of people with intellectual disabilities. It was an opportunity to hear about the advances made in the areas that most directly impact the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. It was a call to all nations to recommit themselves to people with intellectual disabilities and begin planning for the future.

A Special Olympics photo exhibit was on display in the United Nations visitors centre at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 30 September to 16 October 1992 and was viewed by thousands of visitors. The display was organized in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

From 12 to 15 October 1992, a group of Special Olympics experts and mentally handicapped athletes attended plenary meetings of the session of the General Assembly, commemorating the United nations Decade of Disabled Persons. On 15 October, the experts and athletes shared their knowledge and experience at an International Symposium on Mental Retardation held in conjunction with the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

SOI's representatives attended the annual non-governmental organization/Department of Public Information conferences organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

Operational field activities

(a) The Subprogramme on Disabled, Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Secretariat, provided a financial assistance grant of US$ 7,000 for the purpose of organizing a sports competition for emerging special programmes in the Middle East region. To that effect, Special Olympics Jordan organized a football tournament in Amman in which teams of mentally handicapped football players from four other countries competed. SOI offered a grant of US$ 5,000 in support of this event to assist in air transport.

(b) UNICEF Cairo provided a grant of US$ 5,000 to assist Special Olympics Egypt in the establishment of a Special Olympics Permanent Training Institute for coaches and trainers in order to improve their skills while working with mentally handicapped athletes. The Institute's first opening session is scheduled to be held in Cairo in April 1996.

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40. WORLD COAL INSTITUTE

(Special consultative status)

The World Coal Institute (WCI) is a non-profit non-governmental organization of coal producers, covering some two thirds of global production and half of international trade. It is registered as a company in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and funded by member company subscriptions.

Principal objectives

These are:

(a) To disseminate advice and support to all who are interested in production and use of coal, with particular emphasis on technology transfer to developing countries;

(b) To promote understanding of the role of coal as principal fuel for power generation, and as reductant/fuel in steel, and as fuel in cement manufacture;

(c) To disseminate knowledge on clean coal technologies;

(d) To provide a voice for coal in international debates on energy and environment;

(e) To support others involved in coal affairs, including national association, the United Nations and international energy/industry associations.

Increase in geographical membership over review period

Countries added include China and the Russian Federation (1992), India (1993) and Aruba/Venezuela (1995).

Attendance at United Nations meetings

During the period under review, WCI:

(a) Attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio, June 1992), and the meetings preceding the negotiation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[1]

(b) Attended all subsequent meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change bodies, including:

(i) Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Framework Convention on Climate Change, leading to the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Berlin (March 1995);

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(ii) Ad hoc group on the Berlin Mandate (Geneva, August and October 1995);

(iii) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): various sessions of three working groups and the eleventh plenary session (Rome, December 1995);

(c) Attended United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Industry and Environment (IE): all sessions of the UNEP IE consultative meetings with industry and trade associations;

(d) Attended some sessions in New York of the Commission on Sustainable Development, with which contact was maintained;

(e) Maintained substantial contacts with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) through the Working Party on Coal, and the Meetings of Experts on Coal Trade, Statistics and Transport.

Statements/speeches at United Nations events

WCI delivered presentations on various subjects at ECE; supported the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in joint industry speeches.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

(a) Building on the findings of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, WCI organized a conference entitled "Coal for Development" in 1993, attended by over 500 participants from 45 countries. There was participation from both UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); WCI supported the attendance of 50 delegates from developing countries.

(b) Commission on Sustainable Development: following a contact with Commission on Sustainable Development staff, WCI produced a paper on Technology Transfer Opportunities in coal production and utilization, which was distributed to participants at a Commission on Sustainable Development workshop and which has also been made available to UNIDO. WCI and its members are happy to assist the Commission on Sustainable Development on its activities on chapter 9 of Agenda 21.

(c) WCI has participated in most of the meetings concerning the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, involving its members in both science- and policy-related issues. WCI played an active role in the IPCC's last plenary session in Rome and, together with other industry groups, provided input into and recommendations on the review and compilation of the IPCC Second Assessment Report.

(d) WCI supported ECE events on coal production/marketing/safety.

(e) WCI supported development of an UNEP/ICC training kit on environmental management systems.

Other relevant information

WCI has produced a series of videos, parts of which are to be incorporated in a five-nation European Union (EU) educational initiative; a copy of the brochure "COAL: Power for Progress" is also distributed to educational institutions, and will be translated into other languages.

WCI organizes specialist workshops in developing countries; events have taken place in Thailand and Indonesia, and are planned in India, China, the Philippines and Poland.

Notes

[1] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[2] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

41. WORLD COUNCIL OF CREDIT UNIONS, INC. (WOCCU)

(Special consultative status)

The World Council of Credit Unions, Inc. (WOCCU) is the international organization of credit unions and similar cooperative financial institutions. Its mission is to assist members to organize, expand, improve and integrate credit unions and related institutions as effective instruments for the economic and social development of people. WOCCU serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, provides services for its members, promotes membership development and growth, represents members' interests, and extends cooperative financial services to areas where people want and need these services. Credit unions are member-owned and democratically operated cooperative financial institutions. It is part of WOCCU's mission to seek to provide credit union services to people who want and need those services.

In many parts of the world, people do not have access to banks, and credit unions can provide the needed financial services to their members. It is in this way that the activities of the World Council fit into the mission of the United Nations. WOCCU credit union development programmes bring credit union financial services to areas where banks cannot or will not operate as well as to areas where banks are already serving people's financial services needs.

Credit unions provide a forum for people-related development in terms both of improving the quality of life and of training and education. By regular contributions to personal savings accounts and through loans at their credit union, people can buy the things they need, or obtain the necessary seed capital to operate their own small business. Some of our development programmes have focused primarily on the provision of micro-enterprise loans for small-business persons. Many of the micro-entrepreneurs who have participated in such programmes have been women who have been able to start and operate a successful business through their credit union loan. This, in turn, creates financial self-sufficiency for the family.

WOCCU manages a number of credit union development activities in many countries. Funding for these activities has become substantially diversified over the reporting period. Until very recently, WOCCU credit union development programmes had relied almost exclusively on United States government funding. WOCCU dependence on this funding for development activities will continue to decrease in the future as the Council increasingly obtains funding from other sources.

Since its last report, WOCCU's geographical membership base has expanded considerably. Several Central and Eastern European nations are currently in the process of developing a credit union movement. WOCCU has been involved in credit union development efforts in the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The national associations in Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine are already members of WOCCU.

WOCCU has been represented at several United Nations-related meetings during the reporting period. A credit union development workshop was held in

Geneva, Switzerland, in collaboration with the International Cooperative Alliance and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in February 1992. This workshop attracted more than 50 participants. In September of that year, a WOCCU representative attended the ILO Technical Consultation on Small-Scale Financial Mechanisms in Support of Poverty Alleviation and Self-Reliant Development.

In fall 1993, WOCCU staff attended a briefing on the World Summit for Social Development for non-governmental organizations based in Geneva. The purpose of this meeting was to determine the impact of non-governmental organization participation in the Summit. In 1994, WOCCU participated in a forum on the francophone cooperative development experience. In March 1995, a WOCCU representative participated in the Social Summit in Copenhagen at which private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and cooperative development agencies were spotlighted.

At the invitation of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the WOCCU chief executive officer chaired a symposium on Capital Formation in Agricultural Cooperatives in November 1995. Selected country studies were presented that were aimed at identifying successful strategies for mobilizing cooperative capital to finance growth of cooperative businesses.

In addition, WOCCU has continued to participate in the semi-annual meetings of the COPAC Board of Directors and to cooperate closely with that organization to seek ways to further collaborate and share information.

As a member of COPAC, WOCCU collaborated with that organization in the preparation and presentation of a paper on "The Role of Cooperatives in Light of New Economic and Social Trends" at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

WOCCU maintains an ongoing dialogue with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to explore possible opportunities for collaboration with that agency to seek ways to incorporate credit unions into its development efforts.

The World Council of Credit Unions looks forward to continuing its valued relationship with the United Nations in the years ahead.

42. WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST WOMEN (WFMW)

(Special consultative status)

Founded in 1939, the Wold Federation of Methodist Women (WFMW) is an international organization, with 7 million members in 70 countries. In 1983, it was granted special consultative status, with the Economic and Social Council. The aim and purpose are defined as:

(a) Developing a global sisterhood of spiritual fellowship and shared values;

(b) Witnessing through social action in the areas of community, national and international life;

(c) Identifying needs and issues and creating projects for developing the quality of life for women and children;

(d) Engaging in education, social and spiritual ministries.

In its role as a non-governmental organization in consultative status, WFMW gives high priority to issues of the advancement of women and human rights and in particular the rights of women, children and the girl child. Other issues covered are peace, development, employment, health, nutrition and traditional practices.

The World Federation of Methodist Women is currently a member of the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council and of the Non-Governmental Committee of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In Geneva, Renate Bloem, representative, serves on the Non-Governmental Committee on Sustainable Development, the Special Committee on Human Rights, the Subcommittee on the Status of Women and eight of its Working Groups. The Representative is a member of the non-governmental organization group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Sexual Exploitation.

In New York, Lavinia Padarath and Chief Nana Apeadu, representatives, serve on the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and on the following working groups: Equality, on which Lavinia Padarath, representative is Rapporteur; Peace, Women and Environment, Indigenous Women, Education, Research, Health and Nutrition. The representatives attend meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and most recently, in 1995, attended the forty-eighth annual department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat/NGO conference.

In Vienna, Andrea Siegrist represents WFMW on committees and attends seminars on the family, poverty, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Commission on the Status of Women (1992/1993). Other issues covered are ageing and disabled persons.

The following is a summary account of participation in, and submission o statements to meetings of bodies of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings as well as United Nations world conferences.

1992

20-31 January	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Agains Women
27 January-6 March	Commission on Human Rights: Submission of "urgent procedures" on religious persecution (in Pakistan) to the secretariat and to the Chairman, Mr. Pal Solt
11-20 March	Commission on the Status of Women
30 November-1 December	Fourth International Seminar: Family and Environment: A Partnership
30 March-10 April	World Conference on Human Rights, Preparatory Committee of the second session: Oral statement on agenda item 11: Studies and documentation for the World Conference on Human Rights
7-9 May	Forty-fifth World Health Assembly: Technical discussion; oral statement on women, health and development
4-13 May	United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery: Oral statement on agenda item 5 (b): Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism
3-28 August	Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: Joint oral statement with the International Catholic Child Bureau on item 16: Contemporary Forms cf Slavery; participation in drafting resolution 1992/4 on discrimination against women
14-18 September	World Conference on Human Rights, third session of the Preparatory Committee: Oral statement on agenda item 7: Provisional agenda and documentation for the World Conference on Human Rights World Council for Human Rights; written joint non-governmental organization statement (A/CONF.157/PC/46/Add.4)

1993

18 January-5 February	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

1 February-12 March	Commission on Human Rights: Oral statement on agenda item 24: Rights of the child; joint NGO oral statement on agenda item 10: Torture and other cruel, inhumane treatment or punishment (rape as torture)
8-17 February	Commission for Social Development
17-26 March	Commission on the Status of Women, Vienna: Written non-governmental organization statements on the preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, on the draft declaration on the elimination of violence against women, on women in extreme poverty (submitted by the Geneva women's groups on Peace, Employment and Nutrition)
19-30 April	World Conference on Human Rights, fourth session of the Preparatory Committee: Written joint non-governmental organization statement on agenda item 5: Women's human rights and the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/63/Add.22)
10-12 June	NGO Forum on Human Rights
14-25 June	World Conference on Human Rights: Oral statement, on behalf of the Working Group on Nutrition, on the "Right to food"
	Written joint non-governmental organization statement on the "Rights of Children" and on the "Human Rights of Women", and participation in the drafting of an oral "Ecumenical Statement"
28 June-30 July	Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council
2-27 August	Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: Joint oral statement on agenda item 15: Contemporary forms of slavery
20 September-8 October	Committee on the Rights of the Child, fourth session: General discussion on "Protection of the child against economic exploitation"
28 November-2 December	World NGO Forum on the Family, Malta

1994

13 January	Economic Commission for Europe: Consultation
21 January-11 March	Commission on Human Rights: Agenda item 22: Oral statement on "Women's Future: The Girl Child is Key"; items 11 (a) and 19: Joint non-governmental

	organization oral statement on "Rights of Women" and "Advisory Services"; agenda item 14: Joint non-governmental organization oral statement on "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination"; item 12: Joint statement on "Landmines"; co-sponsorship of a draft resolution on the "Removal of Organs from Children", an intervention on "Sexual Exploitation of Children" and an intervention on "Sexual Exploitation of Children" under item 22
March	Commission on the Status of Women, New York: Written NGO statement submitted on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women; on the girl child, on older women and on agenda item 5 (c) (Peace)
13-22 April	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
18-26 April	Economic Commission for Europe: Joint non-governmental organization intervention on the regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women
April-4 May	United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
1-26 August	Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
13-15 October	NGO Forum on Women (preparing for 1995)
17-21 October	High-Level Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Vienna: Joint oral statement on the girl child; written non-governmental organization statement on agenda item 6 (Deterioration of the situation of women, in particular in countries in transition)

1995

January	Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York: Submission of text proposals on the non-papers for the Platform for Action, for the Fourth World Conference on Women on the girl child, and women's human rights
16-23 January	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

23 January	Committee on the Rights of the Child: General discussion on the "Rights of the Girl Child"; oral statement
30 January-10 March	Commission on Human Rights: Agenda item 24: Rights of the Child: oral statement on the girl child on behalf of 41 non-governmental organizations Item 11 (a): Joint statement entitled "Women's rights are human rights" Item 11: Joint statement on "Methods of work of the Commission"
27 February	Commission on Population and Development
27 February-3 March	Commission on Sustainable Development
13-20 March	NGO Consultation and Commission on the Status of Women, New York: New test proposals for the Platform for Action
3-11 April	Economic Commission for Europe: item 6 (c): Joint non-governmental organization statement on "Follow up to the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting"
10-19 April	Commission for Social Development
19-28 May	United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery: Oral statement on "Sexual Exploitation of the Girl-Child"
23 June	UNICEF/NGO Working Group on the Girl Child
3-27 July	Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, United Nations fiftieth anniversary celebrations
4 July	CONGO board members meet with Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and discuss follow-up of world conferences and "United Nations 50"
5 July	Special meeting of Economic and Social Council with a panel of CONGO members Joint NGO statement on concerns for delay of accreditation for some non-governmental organizations to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing
31 July-4 August	Informal Consultation on the Platform for Action, New York: Submission of proposals on "paragraph on religion" for the Platform for Action

30 August-8 September	NGO Forum, Huairou: Workshop on Girls at Risk (Chair); participation in Panel: "Trafficking of Women"; patronage of Queen Fabiola of Belgium
4-15 September	Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing: Document NGO/5: ("Human Rights of Women and Religion") became the basis for the new paragraph on religion in the Platform for Action (A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 24)
6-7 November	Fifth International Seminar: Focus on Families - Action and issues beyond IYF
20 November	Special meeting of the General Assembly on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations: Non-governmental organization-United Nations partnership: the way forward! New York-Geneva link

WFMW has been involved in the series of major conferences, held during the years 1991-1995, culminating in the Fourth World Conference on Women. All dealt with critical issues that have special importance for women and children.

WFMW was represented either by a representative or through affiliated units at the non-governmental organization programmes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Conference on International Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development. Significant teams attended the non-governmental organization events at the World Conference on Human Rights and the Fourth World Conference on Women, where WFMW worked in partnership with other non-governmental organizations in programmes of workshops and lobbied successfully with other organizations on two major issues:

(a) To have the girl child included as a critical area of concern;

(b) To have included a significant statement on women and spirituality.

Involvement in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council has become a significant programme for the World Federation of Methodist Women. Linkage of United Nations programmes with WFMW membership in local communities continues to be a priority.

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43. WORLD FEDERATION OF THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES (WFTC)

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims of the members of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC) are to join together in a worldwide association whose goal is both to build identification, understanding and cooperation within the global Therapeutic Community movement and to widen recognition and acceptance of the Therapeutic Community and the Therapeutic Community approach among health organizations and health delivery systems of international and national bodies as well as Governments and publics, including recognition of paraprofessional along with the professional treatment expertise.

From 1992 to 1995 the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities Membership continued to grow with a significant increase in membership from the Latin American countries.

The non-governmental organization Anti Narcotic Coordinating Centre (ANCC), under the leadership of Justice Amnuay Intuputi in Bangkok, Thailand, is an active Board member of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and United Nations meetings

The World Federation of Therapeutic Communities played a key role in organizing and co-sponsoring the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)/Non-Governmental Organization Conference Involving Communities in the Global Drug Problem. The Conference workshops were held at the Inter-Continental Hotel in New York City from 18 to 20 May 1994. This Conference was designed specifically for non-governmental organizations from the United States of America, Canada and the Caribbean. The aim of the Conference was to widen the awareness of drug issues beyond the scope of specialized organizations, and to develop an international non-governmental organization strategy linking the efforts of all non-governmental organizations concerned with drug abuse and other socio-economic problems.

The World Federation of Therapeutic Communities was also represented at the fifteenth International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations Conference for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse in Hong Kong, held from 5 to 9 December 1994. The Conference's aims were to explore the means to develop close cooperation between government and non-governmental organizations in the prevention of drug and substance abuse.

The World Federation of Therapeutic Communities has been represented at meetings of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna each year and has worked with various international representatives to carry out the goals of these meetings.

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Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and the specialized agencies

The World Federation of Therapeutic Communities was actively involved in the process leading to the convening of the NGO World Forum on Demand Reduction in Bangkok in December 1994. This Forum brought together a variety of non-governmental organizations and achieved its main objective of nurturing an overall culture against illicit drugs.

As a result of this successful collaboration with the United Nations, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme has expressed full confidence in the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities and is willing to further expand the United Nations International Drug Control Programme's collaboration with the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities on future endeavours.

Other related activities

The World Federation of Therapeutic Communities publishes a quarterly news bulletin which acts as a medium for updating World Federation of Therapeutic Communities members and international colleagues throughout 56 countries on research issues, international concerns and United Nations activities.

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44. WORLD FUTURES STUDIES FEDERATION (WFSF)

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes

The World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF) is an international body of researchers, scholars, policy makers and other people seriously involved in futures studies. It serves as a forum where the stimulation, exchange and examination of ideas, visions, and plans for alternative long-term futures can take place. The Federation promotes and encourages futures studies as well as innovative interdisciplinary analysis and critique among all people. Under the terms of the General Assembly Meeting held at the Fourteenth World Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 1995, WFSF now has a new constitution which replaces the former statutes and charter. This was ratified by a majority of WFSF members. The current Executive Council will remain in office until the next General Assembly to be held in conjunction with the next world conference of WFSF in Brisbane in September-October 1997.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and United Nations meetings

The federation is classified as a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, is in consultative status, category B, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and is closely involved in UNESCO's future-oriented studies programme. WFSF representatives to the United Nations are Saul Mendlovitz, New York; Rolf Homann, Geneva; Peter Moll, Vienna; and Mohammad Salem Fayyad, regional representative to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), based in Amman. Diane Malpede is the WFSF representative to UNESCO, based in Paris. The WFSF official representatives were invited to participate at various United Nations meetings in the period 1992-1995. Activities included:

(a) Consultation with the Rector and staff of the United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan, February 1992;

(b) Informal meeting on Futures of Culture in the Asia-Pacific Region, UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Regional Unit for the Social and Human Sciences, Bangkok, Thailand, February 1993;

(c) UNESCO Fifth Conference of Ministers of Education and Those Responsible for Economic Planning in the Arab States (MINEDARAB V), Cairo, 11-14 June 1994;

(d) UNESCO International Bureau of Education: Forty-fourth International Conference on Education, Geneva, 3-8 October 1994: Appraisal and perspectives of education for international understanding;

(e) Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, New York, 16-27 January 1995;

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(f) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, March 1995;

(g) Third meeting of the Standing Committee elected by the twenty-fourth NGO Conference, UNESCO, March 1995;

(h) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995;

(i) Annual DPI/NGO conference: The United Nations at the turn of the century: Global issues; global actors; global responsibility, 18-20 September 1995, New York;

(j) Twenty-eighth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Paris, 25 October-16 November 1995;

(k) Special meeting of the General Assembly commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations: The NGO-United Nations partnership, New York, 20 November 1995.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

WFSF has collaborated with UNESCO on the Futures of Culture project, 1990-1993.

WFSF has contributed to the implementation of UNESCO objectives in future-oriented thinking, national development, culture, ecology and education. WFSF also contributes to the UNESCO FUTURESCO bulletin and to the development of the UNESCO future-oriented studies database.

UNESCO has supported all the WFSF world conferences and most of its courses. An application seeking funding through the UNESCO Participation Programme was made for the Fifteenth World Conference to be held in Brisbane in 1997. This application has the formal support of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO. The WFSF has received financial assistance for the 1996 Asia Pacific Studies Course on Visioning for the Future and Education Perspectives. This will be an introductory course in futures for participants in a WFSF Global Visions project. Together with some independent sources, UNESCO has funded the yearly futures studies courses organized by WFSF in Dubrovnik, Romania, Andorra, Bangkok (1992) and the Philippines. UNESCO also funded a South Pacific course in prospective studies for policy-making, in Suva, Fiji, in 1993.

WFSF submitted a sexennial report to UNESCO for the period 1988-1993. At the Fourteenth World Conference of WFSF in Nairobi, July 1995, WFSF obtained permission to stage a special United Nations event in Nairobi commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization. This event was arranged during Kenya Day. UNESCO's regional director in Nairobi, Dr. Paul Vitta, represented the Organization at the Nairobi conference.

Various United Nations publications and coming events are published in the WFSF bulletin, Futures Bulletin.

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Other activities (conferences/courses jointly sponsored by UNESCO), 1992-1995

These included:

(a) Canadian National Commission for UNESCO/WFSF member Allen Tough: Teaching About the Future, a working seminar focused on the Pacific Rim area, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 21-23 June 1992. Selections of papers presented at the seminar were prepared by an active member of WFSF and published by UNESCO in 1993 as Teaching about the Future;

(b) European Futures Studies Course, Bucharest, Romania, 1992;

(c) Asia-Pacific Futures Course: An Introduction to Futures Studies (Futures of Development: Historical Roots, Present Trends and Alternative Futures), Bangkok, Thailand, August 1992;

(d) European Futures Studies Course, Futures of Education, Andorra, May 1993;

(e) South Pacific Course in Prospective Studies for Policy-Making, Fiji, July 1993; WFSF Thirteenth World Conference: Coherence and Chaos in Our Uncommon Futures: Visions, Means, Actions, Turku, Finland, August 1993;

(f) European Futures Studies Course, Futures of Communication, Andorra, 1994;

(g) Asia-Pacific Futures Course: An Introduction to Futures Studies (Futures of Peace: Civilizations, Structures and Visions), Philippines, November 1994;

(h) WFSF Fourteenth World Conference, Futures Beyond Poverty, Nairobi, Kenya, July 1995.

45. WORLD ORGANIZATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

(Special consultative status)

The World Organization of Building Officials has been active in its endeavour to support the Charter of the United Nations during the years 1992-1995 and continues to perform its activities through its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) so as to achieve its objectives in advancing education in the building sciences, through the dissemination of knowledge on technology, legislation and construction, and in promoting shelter for the homeless. It has the power to do all or any of the following:

(a) To disseminate information and views already available in regard to the primary object of the organization;

(b) To promote safeguards against potential hazards;

(c) To find ways of preventing fires in existing buildings and those under construction;

(d) To promote the concept of standardizing construction materials, equipment, appliances and related matters, in cooperation with other disciplines;

(e) To pool the resources of members in order to facilitate consideration of mutual concerns and of finding ways and means of promoting unification of legislation on building, fire and allied codes, procedures, practices and directives;

(f) To promote cooperation among professional, scientific, skilled and lay groups that have aims and interests similar to those of the organization;

(g) To encourage and promote in all countries the establishment of appropriate means of study and action of communication among the citizens with respect to the advancement of the primary object of the organization and, in this connection, to encourage the formation in every country of national organizations of building officials.

There was no:

(a) Increase in geographical membership;

(b) Substantial change in resources of funding;

(c) Affiliation to an international non-governmental organization in consultative status.

Between 26 April and 5 May 1993 the Founding World President of the World Organization of Building Officials attended the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements at Nairobi, Kenya.

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Between 19 and 22 November 1995 the Vice-President of the World Organization of Building Officials attended the Dubai International Conference on Best Practice hosted by the Municipality of Dubai and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at Dubai in the United Arab Emirates for integration into the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) planned for June 1996 at Istanbul in Turkey.

In September 1992, the Founding World President and members of the World Organization of Building Officials attended the Security and Safety Conference and Exhibition of the United Arab Emirates Contractors' Association at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

In January 1992 and January 1994, the Founding World President, the Vice-President and members of the World Organization of Building Officials attended the World of Concrete Middle East Conference and Exhibition hosted by the United Arab Emirates Contractors' Association at Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Between 1 and 6 May 1993 the Third World Congress of the Building Officials of the World Organization of Building Officials was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States of America, whose theme was "The Changing World Perspective for Building Regulations".

In March 1994, a National Training Seminar, hosted by the New Zealand Institute of Building Officials and sponsored by the World Organization of Building Officials, was held at Auckland, New Zealand.

Between 14 and 20 May 1995, the Pacific Rim Conference of Building Officials, hosted by the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors and sponsored by the World Organization of Building Officials, was held at Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia. Forty-seven papers were presented.

In September 1995, the President and Governors of the World Organization of Building Officials met with the Congress secretariat and meeting planners to view the Congress venue and facilities, review programme development and preparations for the forthcoming Fourth World Congress of the World Organization of Building Officials to be held at Hong Kong between 2 and 8 November 1996 and whose theme was to be "Built Environment At the Crossroads: Towards A Sustainable Future".

Every year in October World Habitat Day is observed.

Every year in April International Building Safety Week is observed.

Biannually, WOBO News is published. It has included articles with such titles as "World Earth Summit - Rio", "Natural disasters highlight importance of building codes", "Building research", "Recycling of materials", "The impact of globalization on the development and enforcement of building regulations", "Town mapping", "Berlin", "World Bank highlights urban development", "International standards: United States model for code development in an international context", "Performance of global standards", "Emergency planning", "Building control comparisons" and "Private certification, Hong Kong version".

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In 1994, The Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Governor-General of Canada, conferred the Commemorative Medal for the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of the Confederation of Canada upon the Founding World President an Governor of the World Organization of Building Officials, Omkar Nath Channan, i recognition of his significant contribution to compatriots, community and Canad internationally.

In 1995, Governor and Founding member Max E. Walker of the World Organization of Building Officials was made a member of the Order of Australia by Her Majesty the Queen. The accompanying citation was "for services to the building industry in Australia and internationally through the World Organization of Building Officials".

In 1995, the First Vice-President and Governor Anthony Samson of the World Organization of Building Officials was made a Member of the British Empire by Her Majesty the Queen in recognition of his services.

46. WORLD SAFETY ORGANIZATION

(Special consultative status)

Aims

The purpose of the World Safety Organization (WSO) is to internationalize occupational and environmental safety and health as well as other related fields, together with an accident prevention movement, and to disseminate, through the entire world, the benefits of practices, skills, arts and technologies of safety and accident prevention in all safety and related fields. WSO supports activities of other national and international groups in their attempts to protect people, property, resources and the environment. The specific objectives of the Organization are to encourage the effective exchange of information and experiences between and among the members of WSO, collaborate with other international organizations in conducting activities of mutual concern, interest and directions, promote the continuous upgrading of the safety and accident prevention technology and those fields related to losses of lives, property and environment, strive for a universal level of professionalism and competence among its members and non-WSO individuals whose functions are related to safety, and perform such other necessary acts and functions as are relevant to the WSO overall theme "Make Safety a Way of Life".

Membership

(a) Increases in geographical membership included the founding of the WSO National Office for the Russian Federation in Moscow, Russian Federation; the WSO National Office for Ukraine in Kiew, Ukraine; the WSO National Office for Taiwan in Taipei, Taiwan, Province of China; the WSO National Office for Poland in Warsaw, Poland; and the WSO National Office for Singapore in Singapore. Further increases in geographical membership are planned through communications with representatives in Ghana, Nigeria and the Czech Republic, to establish WSO national offices in those countries. The second WSO chapter was established in the Philippines (Cebu City).

(b) There have been no changes in funding sources.

(c) WSO has invited the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Environment Centre, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to participate at the WSO Annual Conferences. The invitation is open and hopefully their representation at the WSO Annual Conference will be realized at future conferences.

Activities

In April 1992, our Chief Executive Officer and Main Representative attended the round-table meeting on "Understanding The Role of International Non-governmental Organizations" at United Nations Headquarters in New York. On that occasion, the WSO Chief Executive Officer discussed the WSO programmes with

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the Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, who also participated in the meeting.

The WSO Main Representative met with the chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, New York, to discuss WSO efforts for improved WSO participation in United Nations functions. This was during his participation at the Third International Conference on Health and the Environment: Global Partners for Global Solutions, 15 April 1994.

WSO has begun to assume a much more active role with the Economic and Social Council and the whole United Nations system by appointing in September 1994 a full-time Main Representative to the United Nations in New York. Our Main Representative now spends 100 per cent of his time at the United Nations every day. We are making personal contacts with the heads of all departments to better inform them of our ability to consult with the various departments, when and if they need our expertise, and to monitor all activities of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations activities. Our Main Representative attends every meeting open to non-governmental organizations at United Nations Headquarters, collects documents and monitors the United Nations Internet and Web site pages/documents.

We maintain or have maintained active contact with key United Nations officials including Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General; Ms. Rosario Green, Assistant Secretary-General; Mr. Karl Paschke, Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, Office of Internal Oversight Services; Mr. Hans Corell, Under-Secretary-General, The Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs; Mr. Peter Hansen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Department of Humanitarian Affairs; Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development; Mr. Miles Stoby, Director, Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs; Mr. Jacques Baudot, Coordinator and Director, secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development and Division for Social Policy and Development; Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, Assistant Secretary-General, secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women and Division for the Advancement of Women; Mr. Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Public Information; Ms. Gillian Sorensen, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, Secretariat of the United Nations, Fiftieth Anniversary; Mr. Joseph E. Connor, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Administration and Management; Mr. Georg Kell, Officer-in-Charge, New York Office of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Dr. Wally N'Dow, Assistant Secretary-General and Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and Dr. Aliye Celik, Officer-in-Charge, New York office of the Centre; Mr. James G. Speth, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); Mr. Reinhart Helmke, Assistant Administrator and Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (OPS); and many other lower-level department heads.

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Our Main Representative designed and conducted a major non-governmental organization conference in Ghana, Africa, in 1994 in cooperation with and support of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Science and Technology. Members of the Commission attended. The success of this contribution to both the United Nations and a State Member of the United Nations has been confirmed by the numerous requests to repeat this programme for other States Members of the United Nations in Africa, Asia and South America.

WSO participated in and submitted a position paper to the NGO Forum on Cleaner Industrial Production which was held in Vienna, Austria, in November 1995, and organized by UNIDO.

All conferences and meetings held at United Nations Headquarters in New York have been attended by our Main Representative and occasionally other representatives and/or members of WSO. Some have involved official registration, and the rest have been attended on a monitoring basis. These are too many to list in this report but participation can be verified upon request (see the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1992-1993 (A/AC.172/147); for 1993 (A/AC.172/151) and for 1994-1995 (A/AC.172/155)).

WSO also began in September 1994 (initiated by our Main Representative) an awareness programme; and an active programme involving going directly to the Missions to the United Nations and making contacts with ambassadors and other key officers so as to better understand their individual country needs and make them aware of WSO expertise and capabilities for consulting with and assisting them in their countries with various safety programmes. WSO is developing more efficient ways for its members to interact with Economic and Social Council programmes and activities and become a more active part of the solutions the United Nations is looking for.

Other activities

Information on the efforts of UNEP regarding the protection of the ozone layer, as well as information on sustainable development and other topics, was disseminated at WSO annual educational conferences through the medium of papers presented by various speakers and speeches delivered by keynote speakers. The greatest impact was achieved through the presentation of a WSO member from India who had participated in the WSO Global Safety Round-table of the Sixth World Safety and Accident Prevention Congress (1995) where various proposals had been developed based on United Nations resolutions.

Correspondence was exchanged with the United Nations fiftieth anniversary secretariat, Mr. Ronald L. Ginns, Senior Officer (Legal), Ms. C. Shuler-Uluc, United Nations 50 liaison for non-governmental organizations with respect to obtaining permission to reprint selected pages from the fiftieth anniversary secretariat promotional publication pages in the WSO Tech-Letters. An agreement was signed by the WSO chief executive officer and Ms. Gillian Martin Sorensen, Under-Secretary-General, with respect to reprinting the information and use of the United Nations 50 emblem. Three thousand copies of the WSO Tech-Letters were distributed to WSO members and other interested individuals, institutions

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and corporations. This material was also part of the WSO exhibit, on the programmes and activities of the United Nations and its branches, at the Sixth World Safety and Accident Prevention Congress and Educational Conference, 1995, in Memphis, Tennessee, where participants from the United States and other countries viewed materials and received some of the materials provided by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

Our Main Representative has been chosen by the heads of the United Nations departments and Economic and Social Council commissions to videotape their meetings. This sets a 50-year precedent at the United Nations and provides a most useful back-up/historical context to United Nations meetings. Examples are 60 hours (303 two-hour tapes) for Dr. Wally N'Dow, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), all the panels for follow-up meetings for Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter, Director, Division for Sustainable Development. For Mr. Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Public Information, over the three years of videotaping every Thursday DPI/NGO briefings and many other requested videotaped meetings. Many of these videotapes are very private and exclusive to the United Nations; most of them involve Economic and Social Council heads and/or their meetings or are related to Economic and Social Council affairs. Our Main Representative has established a unique position of trust and confidence with many of the United Nations key executive management officers. All this done at no cost or charge to the United Nations and contributed by our Main Representative.

Contact with the specialized agencies and other bodies

Correspondence was exchanged with the offices of the WHO, UNEP and ILO in New York and later in Geneva, with an invitation to co-sponsor or participate in the WSO annual educational conferences and congresses. Owing to lack of time needed to assure required cooperation from the above organizations, this invitation was withdrawn for the year concerned but was left open for further consideration in the future with a standing invitation for the representatives from WHO, UNEP and ILO to participate as speakers at any of the future conferences and congresses held by WSO.

Daily contact is kept with the Department of Public Information through the "information superhighway" by the WSO Alternate Representative with the Department of Public Information. The Alternate Representative reports to the WSO World Management Center on the various meetings listed by the Department of Public Information and also provides this information to other WSO members on an as-need-arises basis. The most often requested information is on contacts with the United Nations Bookshop at United Nations Headquarters, New York, New York.

Contact with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok was made in spring 1994 by the WSO Representative to ESCAP; a venue for useful exchange of information and contacts on both sides was opened during conversation with Dr. Rahmatulah, Chief of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division of ESCAP. Second visit to ESCAP by the WSO Representative was made in August 1995.

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47. WORLD TRADE CENTERS ASSOCIATION

(Special consultative status)

The goals of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) closely parallel those of the United Nations. Established in 1970, the WTCA's mission is to:

(a) Promote international trade, cooperation and communication;

(b) Foster increased participation in trade by developing nations;

(c) Help regions around the world establish their own world trade centre;

(d) Establish programmes of mutual assistance among trade centres.

With the support and leadership of WTCA, the world trade centre concept has spread to all parts of the world, encompassing people of every social, economic and political background and bringing them together for the purpose of achieving these common goals.

At present, WTCA has 303 member organizations in 89 countries worldwide. Of the 303 members, over 130 are located in the developing world.

To implement its goals, WTCA is dedicated to further strengthening its existing programmes, while working to develop new services. Over the past four years, WTCA has been very active in the following areas:

(a) Educational services: world trade centres around the world offer language instruction and training programmes on international business activities. World Trade Center New York's World Trade Institute is a fine example of the strides being made in this area. The Institute trains approximately 7,000 business people annually in topics related to international commerce;

(b) Trade missions: WTCA members work together on an ongoing basis to organize trade missions to different parts of the world;

(c) WTC NETWORK:

(i) An innovative product of WTCA, World Trade Center NETWORK is a computerized trade lead and message system. At present, WTC NETWORK links 190 world trade centres worldwide and can be accessed in 140 countries with a local telephone call. NETWORK's electronic bulletin board enables users to advertise their products or services, find trading partners and conduct transactions, without leaving their keyboard;

(ii) Through special arrangements with trade publications and business newspapers around the world, WTC NETWORK's bulletin board leads are printed regularly in 100 publications and other media such as The Journal of Commerce (United States), Les Echos (France), Daily Trade News (Republic of Korea), and Business World (Russian Federation).

> This exposure has increased WTC NETWORK's potential readership to almost 4 million people.

The work of WTCA is carried out by eight action committees. One of these is the Industrializing Nations Committee, which was established to promote and assist world trade centres in the industrializing world. This committee works in a number of ways:

(a) It provides information on sources of funding and international project aid for World Trade Center projects;

(b) It is a source of information and assistance on WTC development for the industrializing world;

(c) It liaises with international development agencies and other bodies for the benefit of the industrializing world.

The WTCA Industrializing Nations Committee often works in support of the efforts of various United Nations organizations including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). For example, the WTCA has worked in close cooperation with UNCTAD's trade point initiative to establish trade points within world trade centres and to organize cooperative programmes in the fields of trade education and information.

Another WTCA committee that works in close contact with United Nations organizations is the Trade Policy and Facilitation Committee. The Committee researches pertinent issues affecting the growth of international business and promotes understanding of important trade and international business issues through information and education programmes. Committee members have consulted periodically with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and other agencies.
